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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-NINTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2009–2010

COMPRISING PERIOD
8 March 2010—18 March 2010

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* *Regional Ministers (in addition to other ministerial responsibilities)*

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Barbara Follett, MP (Minister for the East of England)
Phil Hope, MP (Minister for the East Midlands)
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8 March 2010

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 8 March 2010

TREASURY

Terrorist Asset-Freezing

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): In a written ministerial statement on 10 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 11WS, the then Economic Secretary, my right hon. Friend the Member for Normanton (Ed Balls) undertook to report to Parliament on a quarterly basis on the operation of the UK's counter-terrorism asset-freezing regime. This is the 13th of these reports and covers the period October to December 2009[1].

Asset-freezing designations

In the quarter October to December 2009, the Treasury issued no directions designating persons under the Al-Qaeda and Taliban (United Nations Measures) Order 2006.

The Treasury gave 39 new directions under the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009. All of these were in respect of persons designated under earlier orders.

There were no financial sanctions designations of persons with links to the UK made at the UN or at the EU, in relation to the terrorism or al-Qaeda and the Taliban asset-freezing regimes.

As of 5 March 2010, a total of 229 accounts containing just over £370,000[2] of suspected terrorist funds were frozen in the UK. This figure is lower than previous quarters, primarily because some frozen assets were surrendered to the Legal Services Commission to repay legal aid, but also reflecting that some funds have been unfrozen as a result of delistings in this period.

Reviews under the Terrorism Order 2006

The Treasury keeps domestic asset-freezing cases under review and completed 42 reviews in this quarter; 39 persons remained designated under the Terrorism Order 2009. Three persons had their designation revoked.

Licensing

Licensing is the means by which the UK gives effect to exemptions in asset-freezing provision whether related to UN or EC Regulations or domestic terrorism legislation. Each licence is considered on a case-by-case basis. The key objective of the licensing system is to strike a balance between minimising the risk of diversion of funds to terrorism and the humanitarian rights of individuals and third parties affected.

Seventy-one licences were issued this quarter in relation to individuals and/or entities subject to an asset-freeze under the al-Qaeda and Taliban and terrorism orders.

Litigation

The Advocate-General's opinion on the household benefits policy: EC Regulation 881/2002, implementing UN financial restrictions against al-Qaeda and the Taliban in the EU, states that it is an offence to "make funds available directly or indirectly for the benefit of the designated person" without a licence from a competent authority. The Treasury's interpretation of this provision, as set out in a written statement to Parliament by the then Economic Secretary on 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 25WS, is that it includes the provision of state benefits to the spouses or partners of designated persons where they are living together in the same household.

The Treasury's interpretation of the relevant provision of the EC Regulation is the subject of litigation. The Treasury's position was upheld in the UK by the High Court and then the Court of Appeal. Following referral of the case by the House of Lords to the European Court of Justice, the ECJ Advocate-General issued an opinion on 14 January 2010 indicating that in his view, the provision should be interpreted narrowly and should not include the payment of state benefits to the households of designated persons. A final ECJ decision is expected within the next few months.

When the ECJ clarifies the interpretation of EC Regulation 881/2002 on this matter, the Treasury will review its policy and make any changes that are needed to give effect to the Supreme Court's judgment. In the meantime, as set out in my written ministerial statement of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 31WS, I have made changes to how we implement the licensing of household benefits to ensure that our approach remains fair and proportionate.

Developments

The Supreme Court Judgment and the Terrorist Asset-Freezing (Temporary Provisions) Act 2010: On 4 February 2010 the Supreme Court quashed the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2006 and the Al-Qaeda and Taliban (United Nations Measures) Order 2006. My written ministerial statements of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 54WS and 3 and 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 11WS and 31WS refer.

The Government fast-tracked temporary legislation to prevent suspected terrorists' assets from being unfrozen. The Terrorist Asset-Freezing (Temporary Provisions) Act 2010 came into force on the 10 February and temporarily validates the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Orders 2009, 2006 and 2001. The Act:

> Maintains existing asset-freezes under the Terrorism Orders;
>
> Includes a retrospective provision to protect the financial sector from damages claims for maintaining asset-freezes in the period between the Supreme Court's Order quashing the Terrorism Order 2006 and the Act coming into force;
>
> Allows further designations to be made under the Terrorism Order 2009.

The Act expires on 31 December 2010. Before then, the Government intend to introduce more permanent legislation that will establish the asset-freezing regime in primary legislation. A draft of the Bill was published on the Treasury's website on:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/finsanc_assetfreezing bill_draft_050210.pdf.

The Treasury will be launching a public consultation on this draft Bill and I will be making a further statement on this shortly.

Al-Qaeda and Taliban (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2010: Assets frozen under the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Order 2006 remain frozen under EU Regulation (881/2002). The EU Regulation is directly applicable in UK law, but secondary legislation is required to provide for penalties for failing to comply with the prohibitions in the EU Regulation and to establish a UK framework for the effective administration of asset-freezes against persons listed by the EU as being associated with al-Qaeda or the Taliban.

The Government laid the Al-Qaeda and Taliban (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2010 on 25 February 2010. As noted in my written ministerial statement of 3 February, we have chosen to make these regulations subject to the affirmative procedure so they can be properly debated by Parliament.

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[1] The detail that can be provided to the House on a quarterly basis is subject to the need to avoid the identification, directly or indirectly, of personal or operationally sensitive information.

[2] This figure reflects account balances at time of freezing and includes approximately $58,000 of suspected terrorist funds frozen in the UK. This has been converted using exchange rates as of 05/03/10. Future fluctuations in the exchange rate may impact on the contribution this sum makes to future totals of suspected terrorist funds frozen.

HEALTH

Jobs First

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): I am today announcing the seven sites that have been successful in applying to be Jobs First demonstration sites.

Jobs First is an initiative that will support people with moderate to severe learning disabilities to use their personal budget to purchase the services they need in order to progress towards paid employment. The project will also demonstrate varying forms of support brokerage which will assist people with learning disabilities to prioritise employment within their support plan.

This approach will be demonstrated and evaluated in seven English local authorities over a 12-month period until March 2011. A number of local authorities were approached to take part in the project.

The seven Jobs First demonstration sites are:

Essex County Council;
Oldham Council;
Leicester City Council;
London Borough of Newham;
Herefordshire Council;
North Tyneside Council; and
Northamptonshire County Council

These seven local authorities will start to implement Jobs First in April 2010 and the project is expected to run for 12 months. The findings from the project will support Government policy on disability equality and worklessness.

NHS Constitution

The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham): The Department has today published a revised NHS constitution alongside the Government response to the consultation on new patient rights.

The NHS constitution brings together in one place what the NHS does, what it stands for and the commitments it should live up to. It describes the values and enduring principles of the NHS. To guarantee that the NHS constitution remains relevant, it has to keep up to date with public priorities and developments in medical technology, and evidence.

A three-month consultation launched on 10 November 2009, "The NHS constitution: a consultation on new patient rights", set out proposals for new rights to be included in the constitution. The proposals included a right to start consultant-led treatment within 18 weeks of GP referral, or to be seen by a cancer specialist within two weeks of GP referral, or, where this is not possible, for steps to be taken to offer a range of alternative providers.

The consultation also sought views on a right to an NHS health check, which assesses an individual's risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease, for all people aged 40 to 74.

Over 8,000 people responded to the consultation. Following careful consideration of the responses, the Department has today published a revised NHS constitution, including a new right on waiting times. This new right will commence on 1 April 2010 and will be established in law through directions to primary care trusts and strategic health authorities. We also intend to introduce a right to an NHS health check in 2012, and will continue to explore the introduction of further entitlements as NHS services continue to develop.

The revised NHS constitution and the Government response to the consultation have been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office.

TRANSPORT

Airport Public Safety Zones

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): I would like to announce that the responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the Government's public safety zone (PSZ) policy has been transferred from the Department of Transport (DfT) to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

PSZs are areas of land at the ends of the runways at the busiest UK airports within which development is restricted in order to control the number of people on the ground at risk of death or injury in the event of an aircraft accident on take-off or landing. There are currently 31 UK airports with PSZs.

Following an internal DfT review, it was concluded that the administration of PSZ policy should be carried out by the CAA. The CAA has, therefore, taken over responsibility for the implementation of new PSZs and the review and update of existing PSZs. DfT will retain overall policy responsibility for PSZs.

I have today published an updated circular on the "Control of Development in Airport Public Safety Zones". DfT circular 01/2010 updates and replaces DfT circular 1/2002 to take account of this transfer of administrative responsibility from the Department for Transport to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The PSZ policy itself and the guidance in the circular to local planning authorities, who apply the PSZ policy, remains the same. I have placed copies of the updated circular in the Libraries of both Houses.

Eco-driving Training

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): The Department has today issued a consultation document on options to increase the uptake of eco-driving training for drivers of large goods vehicles (LGVs) and passenger carrying vehicles (PCVs).

Emissions from freight movements stem primarily from the road sector, with LGVs representing 20 per cent. of total domestic transport greenhouse gas emissions. The Department's preliminary analysis showed that if 90 per cent. of LGV drivers were eco-driving trained, and continued to drive in that manner, up to 3 million tonnes of CO_2 could be saved over a five-year carbon budgetary period and £300 million in fuel costs could be saved for the industry per year.

As part of the Government's carbon reduction strategy for Transport, "Low Carbon Transport: A Greener Future", published in July 2009, the Department therefore committed to exploring how to achieve a 90 per cent. uptake of eco-driving courses for LGV drivers, and to consulting on the options for doing so, including whether making eco-driving training a mandatory part of the EU driver certificate of professional competence (Driver CPC) will help us do this. This consultation document fulfils that commitment.

The consultation seeks views on three options for achieving a 90 per cent. uptake of eco-driving courses for LGV drivers: no change on the current approach, where eco-driving training continues to be undertaken on a voluntary basis; a non-regulatory approach aiming to increase the promotion of the benefits of eco-driving training, through increased marketing or improved best practice; or regulatory change, where eco-driving training becomes a mandatory part of the Driver CPC.

Because the Driver CPC applies to both LGVs and passenger carrying vehicles (PCVs), the consultation also considers the possibility and implications of making the eco-driving training a mandatory part of the Driver CPC for both categories of driver.

I have placed copies of the document in the House Library.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 9 March 2010

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning

The Minister for Housing (John Healey): I am today publishing for consultation proposals for:

A Planning Policy Statement: "Planning for a Low-Carbon Future in a Changing Climate".

A Planning Policy Statement: "Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment".

I am also today publishing as final policy Planning Policy Statement 25 Supplement: "Development and Coastal Change".

I am placing copies of these two consultations, both of which close on 1 June, and the final policy on development and coastal change, along with an accompanying summary of consultation responses to that policy, in the Library of the House.

Moving towards a low-carbon economy requires a revolution in the way we design, heat and power our buildings. Planning must respond to this challenge, and help make low-carbon lifestyles the norm. Whatever is done to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the future, past emissions mean that some climate change is already inevitable. As well as planning for a low-carbon future we must therefore also plan for a future with a changing climate—and do this in a way that protects our natural and cultural heritage.

Planning for a Low-Carbon Future in a Changing Climate

The draft Planning Policy Statement: "Planning for a Low-Carbon Future in a Changing Climate" updates and brings together in one place existing planning policy on climate change and renewable energy. When finalised, this streamlined policy will be central to our national series of planning policy statements, and operate alongside the new suite of national policy statements for energy infrastructure. It will provide the overarching framework for our planning policies on climate change, both on measures to reduce carbon and to adapt to a changing climate.

We already have planning policy on climate change (published in 2007) and renewable energy (2004). This consultation brings together this policy into a single document and reflects the ambition to tackle climate change set out in the "Low Carbon Transition Plan". This Government's determination to transform how we use energy was underlined when we published on 2 March 2010 "Warm Homes, Greener Homes" www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/consumers/saving_energy/hem/hem.aspx. This strategy sets out the key role of local government and planning in driving the development of renewable heat networks.

Moving to a low-carbon economy will now be central to planning strategies and decisions on planning applications. Planning decisions will help business and communities build a low-carbon future, not stand in their way. In building this low-carbon future, we remain committed to protecting our valued natural and historic environments. We are making no change to established green belt policy. We need to plan for unprecedented changes but we do not expect local communities to acquiesce to proposals with unacceptable impacts.

To help introduce and operate this new planning policy, I am making available a package worth £9.75 million to develop the new skills and improve capacity across the range of local authority responsibilities needed to tackle climate change. This will help strengthen the skills and knowledge needed by planners, including in planning for increased renewable energy supply and encouraging local communities to take positive action on climate change.

Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment

The new draft Planning Policy Statement: "Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment" streamlines and consolidates existing planning policy on biodiversity, geological conservation, landscape, agricultural land quality, heritage and undeveloped coasts, open space, and land and facilities for sport and recreation. This provides a clearer and more strategic national policy framework for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment, and the provision of sufficient areas of open space, and land and facilities for sport and recreation to meet the needs of communities. In doing so, the policy statement demonstrates our commitment to the natural environment has not changed.

In bringing together policies on the natural environment and open spaces, I am also meeting the commitment made in "World Class Places" to publish planning policy to deliver green infrastructure. Green infrastructure can provide a wide range of environmental benefits in both rural and urban areas including flood water storage, sustainable drainage, urban cooling and local access to shady outdoor space. It also provides habitats for wildlife, and through the creation and enhancement of "green corridors", should aid the natural migration of more species responding to the changing climate.

Development and Coastal Change

The supplement to Planning Policy Statement 25: "Development and Coastal Change" provides planning policy to help communities manage and adapt to coastal change. Positive planning has an important role in helping communities to manage risk and adapt to an ever changing coastline.

To complement the strong planning policy to manage coastal flooding in Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25), the new planning policy extends the PPS25 strategic risk-based approach to manage future physical changes to the coastline. This will help communities to adapt over time to changing coastlines. This will also prevent new development from being put at risk by avoiding inappropriate development in areas that are vulnerable to coastal change and directing development away from these areas. It provides a flexible planning approach so that appropriate development that would support the economic and social viability of a community is able to go ahead, but will be safe.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Television Licence Fees

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): On 18 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 933, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and the Olympics, and Paymaster General announced the planned annual increases in the TV licence fee under the BBC's six-year funding settlement, which began in April 2007. In line with that settlement, from 1 April 2010, the fee for a colour television licence will rise to £145.50 and the fee for a black and white licence will rise to £49.00. I will today lay before the House the regulations necessary to bring these new fees into force.

DEFENCE

Skynet 5D

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies): I wish to inform the House that my Department is extending our PFI contract with Paradigm, a wholly owned subsidiary of the EADS, to enable the communications satellite, Skynet 5D, to be completed and launched. The Skynet 5 constellation provides the communication capability vital to the success of our military operations. Skynet 5D is partially built and was originally designated as a back-up option should any Skynet 5 satellite fail to perform as required. Recent work has demonstrated that the current capability of the Skynet 5 constellation (Skynet 5A, B and C) will be exceeded by around the middle of this decade. Skynet 5D will be launched in 2013 to meet an anticipated increase in demand for communications bandwidth between 2015 and 2020.

The deal with Paradigm will increase the value of the PFI contract by over £400 million to about £3.5 billion. As well as securing essential military capability, it will also directly create around 100 new jobs, mainly at EADS Astrium/Paradigm sites in Portsmouth and Stevenage and sustain a large number at both sites and also in Corsham, Wiltshire.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Dangerous Dogs

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): Together with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department, I am today consulting on whether current legislation relating to dangerous dogs adequately protects the public and encourages responsible dog ownership. The aim is to review current legislation to better protect the public; help enforcers tackle those who abuse the law; and stop the abuse suffered by dogs that end up in the wrong hands. The consultation will run until 1 June, and during the consultation period, I will meet a wide variety of stakeholders to discuss their views. The consultation looks at:

extending dangerous dogs law to cover all places including private property;

giving police and councils more powers to tackle the problem of dangerous dogs by the introduction of dog control notices;

either getting rid of exemption rules that allow some people to keep banned types of dogs or if exemptions are to remain ensuring that the system works more effectively;

what to do about the list of banned breeds;

introduction of compulsory micro-chipping for dogs so that dog owners can be more easily traced; and,

introduction of compulsory third-party insurance so that victims of dog attacks are financially recompensed.

Copies of the consultation paper will be placed in the Vote Office and are available at: www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/dangerous-dogs/.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

HMT Contingency Fund

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): The Foreign and Commonwealth Office requires a cash advance of £90 million from the Contingencies Fund to cover ongoing operational costs such as the payment of suppliers until Parliament has approved the spring supplementary estimates towards the end of March 2010.

Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £134,619,000 has been sought in the 2009-10 spring supplementary estimate for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £90 million will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

JUSTICE

Bilingual Juries (Wales)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The Welsh Language Act 1993 requires that in the conduct of public business and the administration of justice in Wales, English and Welsh are to be treated on the basis of equality, so far as is appropriate in the circumstances and reasonably practicable. Participants in criminal and civil trials in Wales have the right to use the Welsh language in court.

There is, however, no provision for ensuring that juries in Wales must be comprised of members who are bilingual in both Welsh and English. The reason for this is that juries must, by law, be selected at random from the whole community.

A consultation exercise on "The Use of Bilingual (English and Welsh-speaking) Juries in Certain Criminal Trials in Wales" was conducted between December 2005 and March 2006.

The consultation paper invited comments on the desirability of selecting juries in certain criminal trials in Wales, all of whose members would be bilingual in Welsh and English. A bilingual jury would be selected where, for example, it was likely that much of the evidence at the trial would be given in Welsh.

The consultation paper made it clear that the Government have not decided whether bilingual juries were desirable in principle, and would not consider this further until after the consultation period was over.

The subject is not straightforward because it is one of those which comes down to a choice between two good and desirable things—in this instance, the principle of random selection in the jury system and greater use of the Welsh language in court.

On this occasion the Government have decided not to proceed with bilingual juries, primarily because the balance of argument lies against their negative impact on the principle of random selection of juries from the community as a whole, and hence on social inclusion and justice.

I am placing a copy of the full Government response to the consultation in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

EU Transport Council

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): The first Transport Council of the Spanish presidency will take place in Brussels on 11 March.

The Council will be asked to reach a general approach on a directive on transportable pressure equipment. The UK supports this directive. It will align with the changes to the international agreements on the carriage of dangerous goods by rail and road (RID & ADR) which form the annexes of Directive 2009/68/EC. This proposed directive has been developed by the Commission with the assistance of member states, including the UK, and industry. The proposed directive also takes the opportunity to provide greater clarity on the responsibilities of users, including owners, importers and manufacturers, and so should improve compliance and enforcement.

There will be a progress report on the proposal for a directive on aviation security charges. The UK will as ever work towards achieving a fair and proportionate outcome that balances the interests of passengers and airports.

The Council will be asked to reach a general approach on a regulation on investigation and prevention of accidents and incidents in civil aviation. The UK supports this measure in principle, as improved assistance and co-operation in the investigation of accidents and incidents would facilitate improved understanding of the causes of such events and lead to improved safety in aviation across Europe. My officials have been negotiating to secure amendments to the proposed regulation which better align it with UK interests. Good progress has been made on those areas of concern to the UK.

There will be information from the Commission on progress in the negotiations on a second stage EU-US Air Transport Agreement. This will be followed by a policy debate aimed at giving guidance to the Commission on taking forward the negotiations, with the aim of completing them this year.

The Council will receive information from the presidency followed by a policy debate on the outcome of the European Single Sky Conference (Madrid 25 and 26 February). The UK continues to be a firm supporter of the Single European Sky and its supporting technology programme, SESAR, and endorses the conclusions reached at the conference in Madrid on the Single European Sky second package and its associated roadmap. The roadmap sets out actions under four pillars—performance, safety, technology and airport capacity, and under an overarching fifth pillar (human factors) integral to the other four. A very tight deadline of 2012 is stipulated in the amended legislation.

Bus Passenger Services

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): I am today announcing the publication of a 12-week consultation on improving bus passenger services through the regulatory framework. Copies of the consultation and impact assessment have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

It is my aim to modernise the local bus service regulatory framework and improve the passenger bus experience for everyone. As a result of discussions with stakeholders following the coming into force of the Local Transport Act regulations and guidance, and after careful consideration, the Department for Transport now seeks views on a small number of changes to secondary legislation. These changes would improve the provision of reliable and up-to-date information, reduce administrative costs for local authorities and bidders for service contracts, increase the scope for securing a better deal on fares for passengers and ensure stricter compliance with the code of conduct for drivers and passengers. This includes, as part of the Government's commitment to improving personal security and safety on public transport, a proposal to ban the consumption of alcohol and/or carriage of an open container of alcohol on regulated schedule local bus services.

Taken as a whole, the proposals in this consultation should offer benefits to passengers, flexibility for operators, and improvements to bus services in general.

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BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

EU Competitiveness Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Ian Lucas): The EU Competitiveness Council took place in Brussels on 1 and 2 March 2010 and the following is a summary of those discussions.

The main Internal Market/Industry Council items discussed on 1 March were on industry policy, intellectual property rights enforcement and the Europe 2020 new long-term EU economic strategy.

Council conclusions on EU industrial policy were adopted after a debate involving divergent opinions between member states, particularly on how much focus there should be on electric cars. The UK (with support from a number of other member states) successfully argued for the importance of a technology neutral approach to EU support for low-carbon vehicle technologies. The UK also emphasised the need for open and competitive markets and for a horizontal rather than sector specific approach to EU industry policy.

A Council resolution on enforcement of intellectual property rights in the EU internal market, which the UK supported, was also adopted. The UK and others called for more transparency in the international anti-counterfeiting trade agreement negotiations. The Commission agreed to raise these transparency issues with the EU Trade Commissioner.

In the exchange of views on Europe 2020, the Commission outlined its main themes as being innovation, green growth and social inclusion. There was broad support for the Commission's priorities, with emphasis on support for SMEs, better regulation, energy, infrastructure, internal market and competition. The UK stressed the need for increased EU venture capital (particularly for high technology investment) and the importance of the digital economy to the EU. There was general support for the Commission's proposals on governance and for a more social dimension. The presidency undertook to report the Council's discussion to the General Affairs Council ahead of the forthcoming European Council debate on Europe 2020.

At a ministerial lunchtime discussion, Professor Mario Monti discussed his preliminary views in advance of his forthcoming report for the Commission on re-launching the EU internal market. He wanted to promote to business and citizens better enforcement, free movement of services, implementing the digital agenda and real economy measures with acceptable regional, social and tax co-ordination policies. The Commission said it planned to follow up the Monti report with a Commission Communication in June 2010. The UK stressed the need to engage with business, to focus on growth and jobs and also the importance of services directive implementation.

The Any Other Business items discussed covered reports on the outcomes of the December 2009 Copenhagen conference on climate change and the February 2010 EU Informal Competitiveness Council on electric cars; updates on the EU internal market scoreboard of member states transposition of EU directives and on the EU internal market information system for administrative co-operation; progress on EU services directive implementation; and a Commission update on a proposed a private-public partnership model on the development of the future internet.

The main Research Council items discussed on 2 March were the research and innovation aspects of Europe 2020, the Global Monitoring for the Environment and Security ("GMES") programme, a Joint Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme ("BONUS") and the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor ("ITER") nuclear fusion research project.

The Commission advised that research and innovation would be a central theme for the new Europe 2020 strategy. The UK said that the framework conditions for investment in research and innovation (R&I) should be improved and suggested using the European Investment Fund to raise a further EUR3 billion from the private sector for venture capital. The UK also called for a greater proportion of the EU budget to be spent on these activities. The Commission said a detailed EU research and innovation plan would be launched in autumn 2010 which would focus on tackling "grand challenges" such as climate change, energy, food security, health and an ageing population.

At the discussion of GMES, the Commission stressed that it would have a prominent role within a new European space policy, the requirement for an effective governance structure and the need to identify further funding. A progress report was given on BONUS, with the Commission saying it would be a pilot initiative for research initiatives in other European marine regions.

The Commission also gave an update on ITER, saying it was vital that the project was delivered at a reasonable cost and within acceptable levels of risk. The Commission said that a range of funding options for ITER would be put to the Council working group prior to further discussion at the May Competitiveness Council. The Research Council also adopted conclusions on the European Research Council and on European researchers mobility and careers.

TREASURY

Budget Statement

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): I propose to deliver my Budget statement to the House on Wednesday 24 March.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Pay Review Body (2010 Report)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): The 2010 report of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB) has now been published. I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Review

Body for their report. I am pleased to confirm that the AFPRB's recommendations are to be accepted in full, with implementation effective from 1 April 2010.

In line with the AFPRB recommendations, the basic military salary for officers up to brigadier and equivalents in the other services, and all other ranks, will increase by two per cent. In addition, the rates of specialist pay (including flying pay, submarine pay and diving pay) will also increase by 2 per cent. The Government have also accepted the AFPRB recommendations on a number of targeted measures, including the introduction of financial retention incentives to retain personnel essential to delivering key operational capability and a widening of the eligibility for longer separation allowance. The AFPRB has also recommended that unpleasant living allowance be extended to cover service personnel in forward operating bases and patrol bases in Afghanistan.

Copies of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body report are available in the Vote Office and the Library of the House.

Service Complaints Commissioner's Second Annual Report

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I am pleased to lay before Parliament today the Service Complaints Commissioner's second annual report on the fairness, effectiveness and efficiency of the service complaints system.

The independent oversight provided by the Commissioner, and the assurance and scrutiny that gives to the effectiveness of the process, helps to ensure that we can continue to build and maintain the confidence of our personnel in the complaints process.

Ministry of Defence and the services have worked closely with the Commissioner since her first annual report to take practical steps to implement her recommendations for improving the service complaints process. I and the service chiefs welcome the fact that this second report reflects that spirit of co-operation, and that it recognises the initiatives we have taken and the progress we have made in a number of the areas that were highlighted in that first report.

While progress has been made there is still clearly work for us to do.

I will provide a formal response to the Commissioner once I and the services have had time to consider the report in detail.

HEALTH

Meat Hygiene Service

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Gillian Merron): The Board of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) has decided to dissolve the executive agency status of the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) and to bring its staff and functions into the FSA to form the core of a new FSA Operations Group.

The MHS is an executive agency of the FSA and is responsible for verifying that operators of approved abattoirs, cutting plants and game handling establishments in Great Britain fulfil their responsibilities for the production of safe meat and the protection of animal health and welfare.

All of the FSA's operational delivery functions, including those of the MHS, will be merged together in a single Operations Group to derive a wide range of benefits, including:

a consistent, strategic view of the enforcement of legislation relating to all Food Business Operators, irrespective of whether enforcement is undertaken by local or central Government;

a structure capable of better strategic delivery against external expectations and drivers—for example recommendations of the 2009 Report of the Public Inquiry into the September 2005 outbreak of E.coli 0157 in South Wales and recommendations of EU Food and Veterinary Office Missions;

a more cohesive understanding of education and enforcement interventions that work in increasing Food Business Operator compliance with food hygiene regulations; and

co-ordinated and consistent support to UK businesses in relation to compliance with official controls and other statutory requirements.

Health and Rural Affairs Ministers in England and Wales have indicated their support for the FSA Board's decision—Ministers in Scotland noted the decision. In line with the process set out in Cabinet Office guidance, formal approval to dissolution of the executive agency status of the MHS has been granted by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the Minister for the Cabinet Office. The MHS will be merged into the FSA on 1 April 2010.

The dissolution of the MHS will not create a risk to public health and animal health and welfare. All existing regulatory functions undertaken by MHS operational staff in approved meat premises will continue to be undertaken by the same staff in the same way post-merger. Creation of the FSA Operations Group will increase the effectiveness of the FSA as a regulator in the longer-term and reduce risk. Savings of approximately £2 million will be generated through the merger.

Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration (Review Body Report)

The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham): I am responding on behalf of my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the thirty-ninth Report of the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration (DDRB), Cm 7837, which has been laid before Parliament today. I am grateful to the chair and members of the review body for their hard work.

For salaried doctors and dentists the DDRB has divided its recommended pay awards for 2010-11 into three groups:

Consultants—0 per cent.;

Registrar grades, specialty doctors and associate specialists (SAS) grades, salaried general medical practitioners (GMPs) and salaried dentists—1 per cent.; and

Foundation house officers (1 and 2) and their equivalents—1.5 per cent.

In addition, the DDRB recommend that a banding multiplier be introduced for foundation house officer 1 posts that only attract basic pay and that this should be set at 1.05 of basic salary.

The Government do not accept that there is a compelling case for the recommended award of 1.5 per cent. for foundation house officers and their equivalents and in line with its evidence believe that all salaried doctors and dentists below consultant level should receive an award of 1 per cent. The remainder of the DDRB's pay recommendations for salaried doctors and dentists have been accepted in full by the Government.

For independent contractor general medical practitioners (GMPs), DDRB have recommended an increase in contractual payments to practices of 1.34 per cent. designed to result in no increase to GMPs' average net income after allowing for movement in their expenses. With regard to general dental practitioners (GDPs), the DDRB has recommended a 1.44 per cent. increase in contract values which the DDRB intend to result in no increase in GDPs' net income after allowing for movement in expenses.

In making these recommendations the DDRB has indicated that it considers efficiency savings made by GP and dental practices should only be taken into account retrospectively, after the scale of these savings becomes apparent in data showing trends in earnings and expenses. The Government do not consider this approach sustainable at a time when most areas of the public sector are having to achieve efficiency savings in order to sustain jobs and income levels. In view of this, and in line with its evidence to the pay review body, the Government have decided to abate the DDRB's recommendations for GMPs and GDPs by applying a prospective efficiency assumption of 1 per cent. of contractors' operational costs. This will have the effect of reducing the proposed uplift in the value of contract payments to 0.8 per cent. for GP practices and 0.9 per cent. for dental practices.

JUSTICE

Prison Service Pay Review Body (Ninth Report)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Maria Eagle): The ninth report of the Prison Service Pay Review Body (PSPRB) (Cm 7802) has been laid before Parliament today. The report makes recommendations on the pay of governing governors and other operational managers, prison officers and related support grades in public sector prisons in England and Wales in 2010. Copies of the report are available on the www.ome.uk .com/review.cfm?body=2. I am grateful to the chairman and members of the review body for their hard work in producing these recommendations.

The recommendations covering the headline award include:

A 1 per cent. consolidated increase to the maximum point of all pay scales for the remit group;

An additional 0.5 per cent. for senior officers (giving a 1.5 per cent. increase in total) to ensure a pay differential which offers a greater incentive for prison officers to seek promotion;

A 1 per cent. uplift to the required hours addition (RHA), where payable, to senior managers D and managers E to G;

Endorsement of proposals to ensure probationers recruited from 1 April 2009 are eligible for their first increment after no more than 15 months;

No changes to the rate of any of the main allowances (e.g. specialist, tornado, payment plus); and

No change to the rates of local pay.

I can confirm that the headline awards recommended by PSPRB will be accepted in full.

The pay review body also recommended, on affordability grounds, that NOMS should not proceed with targeted investment to support pay reform such as the further scale compression. However, after careful consideration we have concluded that the planned targeted investment in pay reforms are both affordable within the current NOMS budget and necessary for achieving long-term efficiency improvements. NOMS will therefore proceed with the measures effective from 1 April 2010.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Prison Service Pay Review Body (Northern Ireland)

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): The sixth report of the Prison Service Pay Review Body (PSPRB) on the pay of prison governors, prison officers, prison auxiliaries, night patrol officers, night custody officers, prisoner custody officers and operational support grades in the Northern Ireland Prison Service has been published today.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has accepted the recommendations in full. The basic increase will be implemented with effect from 1 April 2010. The cost of the award will be met from within the existing budget allocation for the service.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

PRIME MINISTER

Review Body on Senior Salaries (32nd Report)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): The 32nd Report of the Review Body on Senior Salaries (SSRB) is being published today. This makes recommendations about the pay of the senior civil service (SCS), senior military personnel, the judiciary and very senior NHS managers. Copies have been laid in the Vote Office and the Library of the House. I am grateful to the chairman and members of the Review Body for their work.

The Government have decided to accept some but not all of its recommendations. It is important in the present economic climate that senior staff in the public sector show leadership in the exercise of pay restraint.

Senior Civil Service

For the SCS, the Government have accepted the recommendation of the Review Body that for 2010-11 there should be no increase in base pay or the non-consolidated performance-related pot.

The Government have not accepted the Review Body's recommendation that the minimum for SCS pay band 1 should be increased to £61,500.

These tough decisions complement existing measures to reduce the cost of the civil service and protect frontline services, including savings of £500 million over three years from reforms to the civil service compensation scheme; savings of £100 million annually within three years from reducing unnecessary civil service bureaucracy and the cost of the SCS; and Ian Smith's new review into the scope for further civil service relocations, building on the relocation of more than 20,000 posts since the 2004 Lyons review.

Senior Military Personnel

The Government have accepted the Review Body's recommendations that there should be no increase in the senior military pay scales for 2010-11 recommended in last year's report, and that the bottom step of the senior military 2 Star scale should be removed.

Judiciary

The Government have accepted the Review Body's recommendation that the salaries for the judiciary should remain unchanged.

Very Senior NHS Managers

For very senior NHS managers, the Government have accepted the Review Body's recommendation that there should be no increase in base pay for those whose current salary is £81,800 or more, and no increase in the non-consolidated pay pot.

The Government have not accepted the Review Body's specific recommendations that there should be a 2.25 per cent. increase in base pay for those whose total salary is less than £80,000, and that there should be an increase in base pay so that the total salary of those currently paid between £80,000 and £81,799 rises to £81,800.

Ministers

The effect of the Government's response to the SSRB's recommendations on SCS pay is that there will be no increase in ministerial pay for 2010-11. All paid Ministers will also waive any increase in their pay as an MP to which they are entitled.

Other Review Body reports for 2010-11

My right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Justice, Health and Defence are making statements today on the reports of the Prison Service Pay Body, the Doctors and Dentists Review Body and Armed Forces Pay Review Body in respect of pay for the relevant workforces for 2010-11. The Government's response to those reports is consistent with the need for senior staff in the public sector to show leadership in the exercise of pay restraint.

Looking ahead, the Government announced in the 2009 pre-Budget report (Cm 7747) that it would seek a 1 per cent. cap on basic pay uplifts across the public sector for 2011-12 and 2012-13, generating savings of £3.4 billion a year by 2012-13.

I also announced in "Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government" (Cm 7753) a series of fundamental reforms to the scrutiny of senior salaries in the public sector, with new requirements for ministerial approval of salaries in excess of £150,000 and bonuses greater than £50,000; improved disclosure arrangements above these levels; and a review of senior pay across the public sector led by Bill Cockburn, chair of the SSRB.

TRANSPORT

Marine Aids and Light Dues

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): I wish to inform the House of the publication of a consultants' report entitled "Assessment of the provision of marine aids to navigation around the United Kingdom and Ireland", and of a revision to the planned level of light dues rates from 1 April 2010.

On 10 June, I informed the House that the Department for Transport and the Irish Department of Transport had agreed to undertake an independent assessment of aids to navigation around the UK and Ireland. Subsequently, the Department awarded a contract to Atkins, who has now completed the assessment.

The report of the assessment makes over 50 recommendations, many of which will be demanding of the three general lighthouse authorities (GLAs), and the two Governments, or which challenge long-standing assumptions about delivery and charging for the provision of aids to navigation. Key recommendations include:

The creation of a GLA joint strategic board to drive efficiencies;

The use of an annual target reduction calculator (RPI—X%) for GLA running costs; and

The development of a "roadmap" agreed with the Irish Government on the financing of the Commissioners of Irish Lights, setting out an incentivised financial model, which retains the all-Ireland body while allowing its costs within the Republic of Ireland to be covered wholly from Irish sources.

The report also contains recommendations concerning the management of the general lighthouse fund and the charging of light dues.

Many of the recommendations can be implemented quickly. Others will prove challenging and we will need to consult widely on some before deciding how to proceed. Nevertheless I welcome the Atkins report, which offers a blueprint for the provision, management and funding of aids to navigation for many years to come. The report will shortly be posted on the Department's website and copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Last June, I also announced the first increases in light dues since 1993. They comprised a twofold set of increases, with the changes due to take effect on 1 July 2009 and 1 April 2010, providing payers with more time to prepare for the second rise and price their services accordingly.

The general lighthouse fund that finances the expenditure of the GLAs is now, as a result of careful administration and management, together with better than expected investment income returns over the last year, in a more robust position than was previously forecast. We have also worked closely with the GLAs to identify efficiency savings over and above the 5.6 per cent. reductions I announced last year with further reductions being made in 2010-11, largely in back-office running costs. The Atkins report also makes recommendations to deliver further GLA efficiencies over time. All of these outcomes have reduced anticipated future calls on the general lighthouse fund.

In the light of these factors, and having listened to the views of the GLAs and the Lights Advisory Committee representing shipping industry light dues payers, I have reviewed the level of light dues needed to maintain the fund at a viable level. As a result, I have concluded that we should now implement a smaller increase in light dues levels. I am therefore reducing by 2p the increase in light dues to be paid on and after 1 April so that the rate will stand at 41p per net registered tonne from that time. As previously announced, the tonnage cap will increase to 40,000 net registered tonnes, reflecting the increasing size of vessels that make up the world fleet.

I have chosen this course of action to ensure that the general lighthouse fund remains able to finance the GLAs and ensure the safety of all mariners, while recognising the difficult economic times that the shipping industry continues to experience.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Speaker's Conference (Government Response)

The Minister of State, Government Equalities Office (Maria Eagle): Today I am laying before the House "The Government's Response to the Speaker's Conference" (Cm 7824), which sets out the work Government have done to increase diversity of representation in political and public life and responds to 20 of the Speaker's Conference's 71 recommendations to Government.

Copies of "The Government's Response to the Speaker's Conference" (Cm 7824) are available in the Vote Office, the Printed Paper Office and also on the Government Equalities Office website at: www.equalities.gov.uk.

The Government welcome the landmark report of the Speaker's Conference and the comprehensive and detailed examination of the political and parliamentary landscape it sets out.

We will continue to act to increase diversity in parliament. Fair representation is not only just, it is necessary for the legitimacy of our democratic institutions. For decisions to be made that meet the needs of all parts of society, the people making them need to bring diverse experiences to bear and be representative of the wider population. Since 1997, women in Parliament have championed flexible working, the extension of childcare and legislation to tackle domestic violence, and forced marriage.

The Equality Bill currently before Parliament contains a number of specific measures to tackle under-representation, for example by extending the time available to political parties to use all-women shortlists to 2030, and increasing the options open to political parties and public bodies to tackle under-representation, for example by reserving places on electoral shortlists for those with a protected characteristic.

The Government welcome and accept the recommendation that political parties should be required to publish diversity data in their candidate selections, which is why we tabled an amendment to the Equality Bill to give it legal effect.

The Government's response includes commitments to examine progress on women's representation following the 2010 general election and consider further options if sufficient progress is not made; to find time for a debate in Government time on the implementation of the Speaker's Conference recommendations; and to consider establishing a democracy diversity fund to support the work of developing talented individuals from under-represented groups.

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TREASURY

Double Taxation Agreement (Bahrain)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): A Double Taxation Agreement with Bahrain was signed on 10 March. The text of the agreement has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Common Assessment Framework

The Minister for Children, Young People and Families (Dawn Primarolo): I am announcing today progress in the implementation of the National electronic Common Assessment Framework system (National eCAF)

Many children and young people in England need support from a range of services because they have additional needs. The Common Assessment Framework (CAF), which came about as part of the Every Child Matters reforms, plays a crucial part in delivering this for them. The CAF is designed to help practitioners to assess the additional needs of children and young people when they emerge, and to work together to meet them. CAF is used only with the consent of children and young people, or their parents and carers as appropriate. Since its introduction in 2006 thousands of practitioners have been trained in the CAF and are now using it successfully in their day-to-day work.

CAF information is currently recorded using a paper format or on local systems. A new system to electronically enable the CAF, called National eCAF, will be made available from 22 March 2010 to a small group of early adopter organisations who have applied to take part in this scheme. They comprise four local authorities—Birmingham, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Walsall, and two voluntary organisations—Barnardo's and Kids. Information will be held on National eCAF, as with the CAF, only with the explicit consent of the child or young person, or their parents or carers as appropriate.

The security of National eCAF is of paramount importance. Only authorised, trained practitioners with enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks will be able to use National eCAF; they will also need a token and a password to access the system.

We have worked closely with professionals and partner organisations on the development of National eCAF to date, and we will continue to do so as we develop the system further, and in the light of the experience of early adopter organisations.

For more information, please visit www.dcsf.gov.uk/ecm/ecaf.

Secondary School Applications and Offers 2010 (Statistics)

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): My Department is today publishing the statistical release "Secondary School Applications and Offers 2010" which can be viewed on the DCSF Research and Statistics Gateway. This statistical release was produced by officials working under the direction of Government statisticians in accordance with the code of practice for official statistics and was released at 9.30 today.

The schools admissions code and related legislation ensure that all school places are awarded in an open, fair and transparent way. We have outlawed unfair and covert admission practices which disadvantage low-income families. The code has transformed the admissions system by placing parents and families at the heart of the process, helping them to choose the best school for their child. We have extended the role of the independent schools adjudicator, ensuring he is there to champion fair access for all, allowing him to look into any admission arrangements that parents feel are unfair or overly complicated as well as requiring him to monitor compliance and report to me annually.

The Information as to Provision of Education (England) Regulations 2008 require local authorities (LAs) to submit data to the Department on how many families received an offer of a place at one of their preferred secondary schools. This year on Monday 1 March, almost 530,000 families were advised as to which secondary school their child was being offered a place at.

Today we are publishing validated data, based on returns from 151 LAs, showing that across the country 83.2 per cent. of families received an offer at their first preference school—the same percentage as last year. A further 8.6 per cent. of families were offered a place at their second preference school and 94.9 per cent. were offered a place at one of their three preferred schools. In total, 96.6 per cent. of families were offered a place at one of their preferred schools. I am placing a copy of these data in the Libraries of both Houses.

There is considerable variation nationally. Outside of London, more than 86 per cent. of parents were offered a place in their first preference school. For Greater London, this figure is 66 per cent. However across London, almost 94 per cent. of pupils have been offered a place at one of their chosen schools.

Parents have the right of appeal against any application that has been turned down; and over the summer, local authorities and schools will be re-allocating places where others have moved address or chosen a different route of education for their child.

Parents now have a fairer choice because of our action to enforce the code, and also more real choice because there has been a transformation in the quality of our state schools. More schools are judged by Ofsted as outstanding. In 1997, 45.1 per cent. of pupils achieved five or more A*-C at GCSE compared to 69.7 per cent. in 2009. No Government have done more to reduce failure. In 1997 half of all secondary schools were below the basic benchmark of 30 per cent. of pupils achieving 5A*-C at GCSE including English and maths, it is now one in 13.

We will continue to look at ways to improve the admissions system to ensure that it has families and children firmly at its heart. I will today place a copy of a report by the chief schools adjudicator on misleading applications for school places in the Libraries of both Houses along with my response.

While the chief schools adjudicator has found that only a tiny minority of applications are misleading, this is clearly an important issue. Every place that is awarded through deception is denying another child their rightful place. I accept the findings of the report and will work with the adjudicator on addressing the issue.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan Troops

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): Over the past 12 months, and principally as a result of the uplift in US forces announced by President Obama in December 2009, International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) troop numbers in Helmand province have risen from around 7,700 to over 20,000. In the light of this increase in the resources available to them, ISAF commanders are considering options for rebalancing forces in the province in order to ensure that international troops can have the greatest effect in countering the threat posed by the insurgency and protecting the civilian population. As a first step, General McChrystal, Commander ISAF, and General Carter, Commander Regional Command (South), have agreed that responsibility for the security of Musa Qaleh district, in the Upper Helmand Valley, will be transferred from UK to US forces over the coming weeks.

Ministers have been consulted throughout ISAF's decision-making process and we fully support the transfer of Musa Qaleh as the logical next stage in adjusting the distribution of security responsibility in Helmand, as the US establishes its presence in the north of the province. The transfer will allow UK troops to be redeployed from Musa Qaleh to central Helmand, the most heavily populated area of the province, where the majority of our troops are already based. The thickening of our force density in central Helmand will allow us to continue the progress over the last 12 months in increasing our emphasis on partnering and training the Afghan national security forces and will reaffirm our central role in delivering General McChrystal's population-focused counter-insurgency approach, both of which are key elements of ISAF's strategy to defeat the insurgency and build a stable and secure Afghanistan.

Further changes are likely in due course, as the ISAF force laydown continues to evolve to increase the presence of ISAF and Afghan forces across the main population centres in the province. We will make further announcements at the appropriate point as decisions are made.

UK forces first deployed to Musa Qaleh in summer 2006. The history of our involvement since then reflects the complexity of the campaign, but our objectives throughout have remained clear: to protect the population against the insurgency and to reinforce the legitimate Afghan Government. Over the period in which we have been responsible for security there, 23 British service personnel have lost their lives in the district. However, through their professionalism and courage, and that of their colleagues, insurgent activity in the district centre has been contained, the authority of the legitimate Afghan Government has been reinforced, and there has been steady progress on governance and development, especially in the last 12 months, as the daily lives of its citizens have been improved. While responsibility for security will now transfer to US forces, the UK will remain committed to building on the progress of development through the ongoing activities of the UK-led Helmand provincial reconstruction team in Musa Qaleh.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): The Minister with responsibility for food, farming and environment my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) represented the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels on 22 February. Richard Lochhead MSP also attended. It was also the first Council for Commissioners Ciolos and Dalli.

On animal welfare labelling there was a first exchange of views on the Commission's communication for labelling food to reflect the animal welfare status of their production. Discussions showed some common ground among member states, not least on a call for any welfare labelling system to be simple, clear, voluntary and allow for higher levels than the EU minimum. There were also calls for a thorough cost-benefit analysis of any proposals so as not to place undue burden on producers, but conversely it was also acknowledged that welfare labelling could provide producers with new market opportunities. There was little discussion of the concept of EU animal welfare reference centres.

Next, the Presidency tabled a paper on the future of market management measures (MMMs) under the common agricultural policy (CAP). Most member states believed the current degree of market orientation to be sufficient, while others (including the UK) believed the degree to be insufficient. The majority of member states also thought the existing suite of MMMs were efficient but not sufficient for the future given the increasing prevalence of price and income volatility. The UK was among those that welcomed the expected abolition of export refunds—and Commissioner Ciolos confirmed that their abolition was a core element of the EU's Doha development agenda (DDA) position—and also doubted the utility of MMMs across the piece. A number of member states also called for additional MMMs, while a bloc—the UK included—remained sceptical of adding to the existing instruments.

Commissioner Ciolos stressed that there would be no return to the pre-2003 days of market management. The Presidency noted the views around the table and set out its intention to submit draft Council conclusions to the Special Committee on Agriculture—SCA.

Italy requested Council to approve extension of its state aid scheme to support land purchases, calling for European solidarity. The application required Council approval because it was outside regular state aid rules.

A number of member states indicated they would vote against, therefore the Presidency halted the discussion, noting that the Council was not unanimous.

There were a number of items under any other business. Portugal—supported by the UK and some other member states—urged the Commission once more to take action to increase supplies of raw sugar for the EU cane refining industry. The Commission demurred, but promised to continue to monitor the situation.

The Netherlands expressed its concern about increased trade in illegal ivory and noted that the number of seizures had doubled last year. As this was not directly Agriculture Council business, the Commissioner recognised the widespread concern on this issue, which he would pass on to his colleagues.

Greece outlined its concern about the impact of the financial crisis on its agricultural sector, in particular calling for additional market management measures to prevent crises developing.

Commissioner Ciolos responded to a written French request to intervene in support of the cereals market, stressing that there was no justification to activate additional market management measures—intervention was already open—and that the prospects for the market for 2010 were optimistic.

Poland made a plea for the date of the entry into force of the ban on the use of conventional cages for laying hens to be delayed for five years to 2017. Commissioner Dalli responded that a delay would be a major step backwards, would undermine EU law, and would confuse producers, and urged member states to take full advantage of money available through rural development funding to help their respective industries adapt.

On BSE testing, Belgium suggested that it should be able to move from controlled risk to negligible risk status, and increase the age for BSE testing to 60 months from 48. Commissioner Dalli suggested that this would be considered as part of a suite of amendments being considered to BSE controls as part of the revised TSE Roadmap which will be published in May.

Finally, Council took note of the update given by the Netherlands on the Q fever situation, the rigorous measures they are taking, and the international conference on Q fever that the Netherlands will host.

HEALTH

Violence Against Women and Children (Taskforce)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Ann Keen): Today, on behalf of the Government, I formally welcome the report from the independent Taskforce on the Health Aspects of Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC).

The taskforce, led by Sir George Alberti, was established in May 2009 to identify the role of the national health service in responding to women and children who are victims of violence. It created four sub-groups to examine domestic violence; sexual violence against women; child sexual abuse; and harmful traditional practices (female genital mutilation, forced marriage, honour-based violence) and trafficking.

It brings together expertise from the health service, third sector and academia, and its report sets out recommendations on what more the NHS needs to do to improve its response to victims of violence. Women and children service users and NHS staff were also consulted to inform the report.

I welcome the messages in the report and would like to thank Sir George and the members of the taskforce steering group and four sub-groups for all the work that went into this report and those of the sub-groups. The health service has a crucial role to play in identifying and treating victims and it is important that we are able to support victims effectively and sensitively and to prevent them from becoming victims of any further violence.

Alongside the independent report, the Department has today published an interim Government response to the recommendations setting out our proposed next steps. A more detailed implementation plan will be drawn up by the autumn.

I am placing a copy of the report in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Report Card

The Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson): I am pleased to report that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is launching today the police report card, which is a significant milestone for both the police and the public. The police report card gives the public a clear independent view on the quality of policing in their local area. An interactive website called mypolice will be launched soon.

The delivery of this assessment is an important milestone in the new role of HMIC. It follows the excellent work that the police and their partners have achieved in reducing crime by 36 per cent. since 1997, raising public confidence and ensuring that the risk of being a victim is at its lowest point ever.

I am placing a summary of the police report card in the House Library.

Police Collaboration (Legislation and Statutory Guidance)

The Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson): I am today announcing that on 12 March we will commence the provisions in section 5 of the Policing and Crime Act governing collaboration arrangements in the police service and will also be publishing statutory guidance to support those provisions.

Commitments were made in Parliament during the debate of the Policing and Crime Bill that these revised provisions would be fully supported and clarified by the issuing of guidance. That commitment was reinforced in our recent White Paper, "Protecting the Public: Supporting the Police to Succeed", and I am pleased to confirm our delivery on that promise now.

The revisions to the provisions in the Police Act 1996 governing collaboration arrangements for police forces and police authorities have been welcomed by the service. They provide greater clarity to the complex questions of how the service should make formal arrangements to work more closely together in order to deliver better, more efficient services for the public, while ensuring appropriate governance mechanisms are maintained and the responsibilities and duties of individual participants are upheld. These new provisions also include the new ability for collaboration agreements between police forces to transfer direction and control between chief officers, as appropriate for individual arrangements, as specified by the agreement.

The new statutory guidance supporting this legislation has been developed through extensive consultation throughout the service and has been endorsed by the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Association of Police Authorities, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, the National Policing Improvement Agency and the Police Advisory Board of England and Wales, all of whom have made a significant contribution to its content. This statutory guidance is further supported by an electronic toolkit providing both statutory and more practical advice to police practitioners embarking on new collaboration plans.

Both the statutory guidance and its supporting toolkit will be copied to all police force chief officers, police authority chairs and chief executives and other key stakeholder organisations and individuals. The statutory guidance will also be made available from the Home Office website.

JUSTICE

UK Supreme Court (Final Set-Up Costs)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom came into being on 1 October 2009 and was delivered on time and within budget by the Ministry of Justice. I promised to keep the House informed of the final costs of the Supreme Court Implementation Programme, and I am therefore pleased to announce that the implementation costs of £57.6 million are £1.3 million below the estimated set-up figure of £58.9 million that was announced in Parliament on 3 July 2008.

This figure is made up of £33.7 million for capital construction using a lease and leaseback arrangement over 30 years, £19.4 million of other set-up costs (including library costs, visitor facilities programme team costs, furniture, IT services) and £1.5 million for additional repairs to Middlesex Guildhall. In addition the figure also includes the £3.0 million cost of the external security works, in line with the Whitehall Streetscape Programme, which was not included in the previously announced estimated figure of £58.9 million.

The establishment of the Supreme Court represents a major milestone in the Government's constitutional reform agenda. It has given greater clarity to our constitutional arrangements, achieving a clear and physical separation of the judiciary from the legislature and the executive and improving the visibility of and accessibility to the highest court in the UK.

Sentencing Guidelines Council (Annual Report)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I have laid today before Parliament the final joint Annual Report of the Sentencing Guidelines Council and the Sentencing Advisory Panel. The report gives details of the excellent work they have achieved during the past 10 years, which the Sentencing Council, created by the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, will build upon in future. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members, past and present, of both bodies for their hard work in realising the significant achievements of the last decade.

Coroner System Reform (Consultation)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): The Government are today publishing a consultation paper to seek views on aspects of policy that will inform the drafting of secondary legislation to be made under part 1 (Coroners Etc) of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009.

Our consultation paper seeks views on the following nine policy areas:

The specific types of deaths which should be reported to coroners for investigation.

The criteria, and financial arrangements, for transferring cases from one coroner to another.

Post-mortem examinations.

The application of coroner powers of entry, search and seizure.

Coroners' disclosure of relevant documents to bereaved families and others with a core interest.

The conduct of inquests.

The new appeals and complaints systems.

The training of coroners, their officers and other support staff.

Short death certificates.

The consultation will run until 1 July 2010. Following the subsequent development of the secondary legislation, we plan to share it, in draft, in a further consultation in 2011. The intention remains to implement the bulk of the Act's coroner provisions in April 2012.

Today, I have deposited copies of the consultation paper in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office. Copies are available on the internet at: www.justice.gov.uk.

Prison Transfers Prior to HMCIP Inspections

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): In my statement of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 53WS, I announced a review of the transfer of prisoners prior to inspection. This will be published on 11 March 2010. The review was conducted by the director of analytical services at the Ministry of Justice and HMCIP and was commissioned after an investigation by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) discovered that 11 prisoners were subject to temporary transfers around the time of inspection. Six were moved from Pentonville to Wandsworth immediately prior to the Pentonville inspection (11 to 15 May), and five from Wandsworth to Pentonville immediately prior to the Wandsworth inspection (1 to 5 June). The investigation found that the 11 transfers had been arranged as deliberate attempts to manipulate the outcomes of the inspections.

Subsequently allegations were made regarding transfers from Brixton prison around the time of inspection. A separate investigation concluded that these were also deliberate attempts to manipulate the outcome of the prison inspection. A separate investigation commissioned by the Director of Offender Management for London found that three prisoners had been transferred out of Brixton prison on the day the prison's inspection began in April 2008. Two prisoners were held in HMP High Down and one in HMP Wandsworth. All three returned to Brixton after the inspection was completed. As a result, four members of staff were charged under the Prison Service's Code of Conduct and Discipline. Two later had their charges dismissed, one was found guilty of serious unprofessional conduct and received a written warning and the fourth was found guilty of unprofessional conduct and received an oral warning.

The wider investigation focused on identifying patterns of movement which were similar to those at HMPs Pentonville, Wandsworth and Brixton. The defining characteristics of these transfers were transfers to and from a prison where all transfers out of the prison took place on the same day; and all transfers back to the prison took place on the same day; and the time spent in the second prison was very short compared to other transfers at the time of inspection. In addition some prisoners had been transferred who should not have been transferred for medical reasons.

By analysing these characteristics around the time of all inspections it was found that the practice identified at Wandsworth, Pentonville and Brixton was not widespread but there were some features that warranted further investigation.

One other prison had transferred a prisoner at the time of inspection who should not have been moved for medical reasons and six prisons transferred prisoners who should not have been moved for security reasons.

These details were passed to the NOMS for further investigation. These cases were investigation by NOMS found that none of these were a deliberate attempt to manipulate HMCIP inspections.

In addition a selection of other cases where transfers took place at the time of inspection but did not have the same characteristics as the transfers which took place between Wandsworth and Pentonville were also sent to NOMS for investigation. This was to ensure that there were not other methods being used to carry out this practice.

Following this work, the report concludes that there is no evidence that the practice identified in the transfers between Wandsworth and Pentonville and also at Brixton took place at any other prison. However, improvements can be made to the system to prevent such incidents occurring in the future.

Prisons will be required to submit details of all transfers in the four weeks prior to inspection to HMCIP upon arrival then any movement of prisoners with security or medical reasons for not being transferred would be identified.

Secondly, the analysis conducted here will be repeated annually to check for any further suspicious patterns.

A copy of the report has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and is available on: www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prison-transfers.htm

PRIME MINISTER

Intelligence and Security Committee Annual Report 2008-2009

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have laid today before the House the Intelligence and Security Committee's Annual Report 2008-2009 (Cm7807). This follows consultation with the Committee over matters that could not be published without prejudicing the work of the intelligence and security agencies.

I have also laid before the House today the Government's response to this report (Cm7808). Copies of the report and the response have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

I am grateful to the Intelligence and Security Committee for its valuable work.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 12 March 2010

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Zero Carbon and Healthier Buildings

The Minister for Housing (John Healey): I have today laid before the House regulations that make amendments to parts L, F and J of the Building Regulations (conservation of fuel and power, means of ventilation and combustion appliances and fuel storage systems respectively). These amendments are scheduled to come into force on 1 October 2010 thereby allowing industry six months to prepare.

These amendments follow last year's formal consultations on our proposals and statutory consultation with the Building Regulations Advisory Committee.

Part L of the Building Regulations set building standards that are important in delivering our zero carbon policies and will help to further reduce national energy demand, to meet our emission reduction targets in line with the Climate Change Act and to lower people's fuel bills. We want energy efficient buildings, but we also want them to be healthy places to live and work in, which is why we are changing parts F and J of the Building Regulations at the same time.

The part L changes I am confirming today, maintain the momentum towards zero carbon, delivering a 25 per cent. improvement relative to current standards for every new home and 25 per cent. improvement overall for new non-domestic buildings. These part L changes also set out improved standards of energy efficiency when people elect to carry out work on existing homes and other properties such as replacing their windows or boilers with more efficient ones.

The changes to ventilation provisions in part F are necessary to maintain good indoor air quality in new homes that will tend to become more airtight because of the strengthened part L standards. The part F changes also introduce new requirements and guidance for installation and commissioning of ventilation systems. Similarly, changes to part J are required to ensure that combustion appliances can continue to function safely in more airtight homes. In addition, the part J changes also remove technical disincentives to the wider use of biomass heating systems and introduce a provision for carbon monoxide alarms to be installed with all solid fuel appliances.

The impact assessments supporting these amendments will be published on 16 March. We are making these changes based on sound evidence and where we have judged them to be necessary in order to minimise disruption and additional regulatory burden.

Revisions to the relevant supporting technical guidance (Approved Documents and Compliance Guides) will be made available later this month, together with a summary of responses of the recent consultations on parts L, F and J.

This statutory instrument also makes changes to the Building Regulations Competent Persons Schemes and minor technical amendments to part G of the Building Regulations. The part G and Competent Person Scheme amendments will take effect on 6 April 2010 and Approved Document G will be published later today and copies placed in the Library of the House.

DEFENCE

Chemical Weapons Convention

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Bill Rammell): The UK's chemical protection programme is designed to protect against the use of chemical weapons. Such a programme is permitted by the chemical weapons convention, with which the United Kingdom is fully compliant. Under the terms of the convention, we are required to provide information annually to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). In accordance with the Government's commitment to openness, I am placing in the Library of the House a copy of the summary that has been provided to the organisation outlining the UK's chemical protection programme in 2009.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Nutrition Strategy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Michael Foster): I have today placed in the Library of the House the Department for International Development's new strategy, entitled "The Neglected Crisis of Undernutrition: DFID's Strategy". An electronic version of the strategy is also available on the DFID website at: www.dfid.gov.uk/nutritionstrategy

"The Neglected Crisis of Undernutrition: DFID's Strategy" sets out DFID's strategy to tackle undernutrition. It presents a brief overview of the situation and its implications for DFID's role and priorities in nutrition over the coming years.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Robert Hamill Inquiry

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): I have today laid before the House an interim report of the Robert Hamill Inquiry.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society (Angela Eagle): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council was held on 8 March 2010 in Brussels. I represented the United Kingdom.

The main item on the agenda was a policy debate about the Commission Communication on EU2020 strategy. Member states agreed that EPSCO has an important role to play in defining the strategy, and welcomed the greater emphasis on youth employment.

equality and green jobs. They also supported the employment rate goal but are cautious about the Commission's proposed poverty reduction target. For the UK, I intervened to advocate the link between economic and social goals but cautioned against simplistic, overarching quantitative targets alone and stressed that targets should be meaningful and driven from the national level.

Council conclusions on the eradication of violence against women were adopted, after which the presidency opened a policy debate on the topic. Many delegations supported further EU work in this area while others noted that any actions should be carefully considered and analysed first. For the UK, I intervened to stress the importance of combating negative stereotypes that perpetuate the problem of violence against women. I also outlined recent action the UK had taken in this area, including the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act, the 2009 strategy to end violence against women and girls, the creation of special courts, and further investment for the national helpline for victims of domestic violence.

A delegation of Ministers for Research presented conclusions on European researchers' mobility and careers adopted by the Competitiveness Council on 2 March 2010. EPSCO Ministers expressed concern that the EU did not attract sufficient numbers of researchers and risked losing talent. The Commission will consider this issue and present concrete proposals offering pragmatic solutions.

The Council reached political agreement, without debate, on a Proposal for a Council Directive to implement a social partners' framework agreement aimed at protecting hospital and healthcare workers at risk of injury and infection from medical "sharps" (including needlesticks, scalpels and suture equipment).

The Council adopted the Joint Employment Report 2009-10, and also the Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2010. There were presentations from the Commission on the latest report on equality between women and men and also information from the presidency on preparation of the Tripartite Social Summit due to take place before the spring European Council.

Under any other business, the Chairs of the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee gave an oral presentation on their 2010 work programmes, and the Council noted reports from the presidency of conferences it had hosted.

At the Ministers' lunch, there was a discussion on youth employment. The Commission expressed concern at the impact of the recession, which had had a particularly serious effect on youth employment. Member states agreed unanimously that this issue must take priority and many highlighted measures they were already taking in response to the problem. This included incentives for businesses to recruit young people, vocational training and work experience opportunities.

Defined Contribution Pension Schemes (Contracting Out)

The Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society (Angela Eagle): I wish to announce to the House that I intend for contracting-out for defined contribution pension schemes to be abolished from 6 April 2012.

The Pensions Commission recommended abolition of contracting-out on a defined contribution (personal or occupational) basis, as part of a programme of pension reforms.

Abolition is a simplification measure: contracting-out for defined contribution schemes is a complex issue and it has become increasingly difficult to determine that a scheme member would be better off by contracting-out of the additional state pension.

Section 15 of the Pensions Act 2007 provides for the abolition of contracting-out from defined contribution pension schemes and, during its passage through Parliament, our stated objective was to abolish to this time scale.

It is important to give pension schemes due notice and the pensions industry will welcome this certainty over the abolition date.

My officials will continue to work to implement the changes in line with the above announcement in liaison with HM Revenue and Customs, the pensions industry and relevant public bodies such as the Financial Services Authority and the Pensions Advisory Service.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 15 March 2010

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Schools 2010-13

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Over the past 12 years, our education system has been rebuilt on foundations of inspirational teaching, great school leadership and sustained record investment.

We have now almost 3,500 Sure Start children's centres compared to none in 1997, nearly 4,000 schools have been rebuilt or refurbished, per pupil funding has more than doubled and over 42,000 more teachers and 212,000 more support staff have been recruited.

As a result, outcomes for children and young people have improved dramatically, we have many more outstanding schools and many fewer underperforming schools and our education system has gone from below average in the world to well above average. But our ambition is to have a world-class schools system in which there is excellence not just for some but for all, and where every pupil gets the support they need to overcome the additional barriers they face.

We set out the next stage of our reforms to achieve this ambition in our White Paper "Your child, your schools, our future: building a 21st century schools system". But we also know that we will have to do so in tougher times.

In the pre-Budget report, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said that he will protect front-line spending on the police, the health service and in our schools.

In the case of schools, we also know that we will have to make tough choices and identify savings across the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) budget.

Today I am setting out details of the savings that I have identified so far; providing more information about the real-terms rises in school funding to help schools and local authorities plan for the next three years in advance of further details in the autumn; and launching a further consultation following our review of the dedicated schools grant.

The pre-Budget report confirmed that from 2011-13 funding for Sure Start will continue to rise in line with inflation; funding for 16-19 learning will rise by 0.9 per cent. year on year with an extra £202 million this year to meet our September guarantee; and funding for schools will increase by 0.7 per cent. in real terms, which at current inflation levels will mean a cash increase of 2.7 per cent. This comes on top of real-terms increases of 2.4 per cent., or cash increases per pupil of 4.3 per cent., in 2010-11.

This means that 75 per cent. of the DCSF Budget has been protected and we can:

> Deliver our pupil and parent guarantees including one-to-one tuition for all children in primary school and year 7 who fall behind;
>
> Ensure there is strong discipline and good behaviour in every school;
>
> Meet our September guarantee to all school leavers of a place in college or training;
>
> Maintain our additional teachers and support staff;
>
> And in addition, take forward our Building Schools for the Future pledge to rebuild or refurbish all secondary schools. We have announced a further tranche of BSF projects: £418.3 million will be invested across Buckinghamshire, Cornwall, Gateshead, Lincolnshire, Oxfordshire and Sutton.

By 2013, the Chancellor said also that I will need to find £500 million in savings from my non-protected spending, which, leaving aside the teachers' pension scheme, accounts for 8 per cent. of the DCSF's £63 billion resource budget.

This is equivalent to a 7 per cent. cut and requires tough choices. I have so far identified savings of over £300 million, including: £135 million from our NDPBs with significant reductions in funding for BECTA and the TDA; £100 million by ending start-up funding for extended services now that 95 per cent. of schools already offer access to them; £50 million by scaling back bursaries for initial teacher training now that we have a steady flow of new teachers; and £5 million in savings from communications budgets including by moving Teachers' TV online. At the same time the Department will save a further £8 million per year from the costs of its back office functions, by sharing services with other Government Departments.

We still have further work to identify savings without cutting into programmes such as short breaks for disabled children, music, sport or support for looked-after children because I am determined to do whatever it takes to protect the front line.

Real-terms increases in schools funding of 0.7 per cent., or 2.7 per cent. cash at current levels of inflation, mean we can resource increasing pupil numbers—a projected further 80,000 pupils—and still increase per pupil funding by 2.1 per cent. in cash. This means we can resource our priorities:

> Ensure one-to-one tuition can be maintained in KS2 and year 7 and expanded to KS1, delivering our "3Rs" guarantee;
>
> Maintain the subsidy for extended services, supporting a richer and broader school experience for all pupils but particularly those from more deprived backgrounds;
>
> Resource new or improved areas of provision, such as ensuring parents are able to secure a school place from the September following their child's 4th birthday, as recommended by Sir Jim Rose; and
>
> Ensure continued protection of core front-line provision for children in schools and thus delivery of our pupil and parent guarantees.

For the same period, we expect average cost pressures of 1.6 per cent. cash per pupil. This means that schools on average will be able to meet their cost pressures from within their overall increase.

The actual level of increase in funding for each individual school will vary. It will depend on each school's own particular needs; local decisions about how best to meet needs; and the conclusion of the consultation I am beginning today on the distribution of the dedicated schools grant.

However, as in the past, we will protect schools by setting a minimum funding guarantee (MFG): a guaranteed per pupil increase in their like-for-like budget. We will, as usual, set the exact level of the MFG in the autumn, but it will certainly guarantee all schools increasing per pupil budgets in cash terms. Of course, the majority of schools will receive higher funding increases than the MFG—as is the case with three quarters of schools this year.

Every school faces different challenges and some schools face greater challenges than others.

We know that results have been rising fastest of all in schools in the areas with the greatest deprivation and the gap has been narrowing. But we have much more to do and we are determined to tighten the link between deprivation and school budgets so that schools with the greatest proportion of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds get the additional resources they need.

We have been reviewing the dedicated schools grant to ensure that funding is distributed fairly, transparently and responds to the needs of children and young people, and today have published the "Consultation on the future distribution of school funding".

Currently, around £3 billion is allocated to local authorities as additional deprivation funding through the dedicated schools grant, rising to nearly £4 billion including other grants.

In the past, local authorities have not always passed on all of this funding to schools on the basis of deprivation and we have already made it clear to local authorities that we expect them to do so in the future.

But to ensure that all schools who take on pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds get the additional resources they need and still have the flexibility to decide how they use deprivation funding, it is also our intention to require local authorities to use a local pupil premium to distribute deprivation funding, based on their own local decisions of how best to measure deprivation and to increase it gradually before 100 per cent. of deprivation funding is passed on appropriately by 2014-15.

During our review, we received some representations that a nationally-set pupil premium should be implemented.

However, a nationally-set pupil premium would not take account of local need, would prescribe a single amount of funding to overcome deprivation across the whole country and would, according to the Institute of Fiscal Studies, require severe and immediate cuts to school budgets or other public services to pay for it. So it is also our intention that the definition and therefore the level of the pupil premium is agreed locally, so that it can properly reflect local need, circumstances and challenges.

It is however vital that all schools make savings to enable schools collectively to meet all cost pressures, ensure investment in our key priority areas, allow progress to be made on delivering a fairer funding system without creating damaging instability for schools funded at the MFG, and use their resources to best effect to maximise investment in improving outcomes for their pupils. So alongside a real-terms rise in school funding of 0.7 per cent., (a cash increase of 2.7 per cent.), we have also set schools challenging but achievable efficiency targets of 0.9 per cent. or £650 million across the school system as a whole which will enable them to meet cost pressures and continue to deliver improved outcomes for pupils.

It should be possible for schools, across the piece, to save in excess of this. We believe schools could go further and potentially make efficiency savings of up to £950 million, providing up to £300 million extra savings which could be recycled by schools to spend themselves on their priorities to support every child.

We published a discussion document on efficiencies—"Securing our future: using our resources well"— in November last year setting out the areas where we believed schools would most be able to achieve efficiency savings.

I know that school leaders around the country have recognised the progress that needs to be made and are responding vigorously to the challenge of identifying efficiency savings in order to switch resources to the front line. Around 1,800 schools have already taken up the offer of free financial consultancy support that we have made available to all maintained schools and we expect many more schools to attend one of the conferences that we have arranged with the National College, the LGA and other organisations.

We also announced last week that we will fund 1,000 more primary school bursars.

There is no doubt that this is a tougher settlement than in the past and tough choices have to be made by schools, by local authorities and by Government. I have chosen to protect front-line budgets, pass on real-terms increases to schools, make tough choices to find savings in the DCSF unprotected budget and support schools to make efficiencies. I have also chosen not to create excess places that would deprive existing schools of funds they need and not to introduce a national pupil premium that would require severe and immediate cuts to school budgets. I believe those are the right choices for our schools and for the future of our country.

I have placed copies of both "Investing for the future: school funding 2010-13" and "Consultation on the future distribution of school funding" in the House Libraries.

DEFENCE

Borona Programme

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Bill Rammell): On 12 September 2007 my predecessor announced (*Official Report*, columns 122-124WS) a programme of moves that would see three major military formations currently based in Germany relocated to existing defence sites in the UK, together with other unit moves within Germany that would lead to the eventual closure of Rhine Garrison and Münster Station with a consequential release of significant financial savings to the defence budget. The first formation to move as part of this programme is the HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps which will take place this summer to refurbished accommodation at Innsworth in Gloucestershire as announced on 15 May 2008 (*Official Report*, column 49WS).

Today, I am announcing that I have given approval for the next phase of the programme which will enable the rebasing of units within Germany. This approval commences the implementation of 26 minor build projects within Gütersloh Garrison that will allow those units that remain in Germany in support of 1 (UK) Armoured Division to vacate Rhine Garrison. As a separate but related part of this work we will also develop and rationalise the provision of service and infrastructure support currently provided in Germany by HQ United Kingdom Support Command, the army's administrative headquarters. Taken together these initiatives will allow the Department to close large parts of Rhine Garrison in 2014, with full closure achieved when 1 Signal Brigade (7 and 16 Signal Regiments) moves back to the UK from its barracks in Elmpt.

The final two elements of the programme see 1 Signal Brigade move to Stafford and 102 Logistic Brigade move from Gütersloh to Cosford. While these locations remain the planned sites for these formations it has been necessary to delay their moves by two years beyond previously announced timelines in order to accommodate other defence resource priorities. The revised plan will see now 1 Signal Brigade move in 2015 and 102 Logistic Brigade move in 2018.

We will continue to work with all interested parties in the UK, including the local county and borough councils, health and education providers and the trade unions. In Germany we will continue to engage with the relevant authorities and employee representatives at national, regional and local levels. The German Government, as host nation, have been notified of these decisions.

As stated in all of our previous announcements, the moves that we are planning do not signal a change in either our commitment to the NATO Alliance or in our overall defence policy, nor do they devalue the continued close bilateral defence relationship between the UK and Germany. Although we may make further modest adjustments to our force levels in Germany, our plan, with the continued agreement of the German Government, remains to base UK forces in Germany for the foreseeable future in the form of HQ 1 (UK) Armoured Division and the majority of its formations and supporting units, some 15,000 service personnel.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

National Policy Statements

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Mr. David Kidney): My noble Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change today made the following statement:

> The issue has been raised of whether, if an election should fall before the due Parliamentary process envisaged by the Planning Act can be completed, Parliament's scrutiny of the six energy national policy statements and the ports national policy statement would be curtailed. We have no desire to short-circuit the process that has been laid down. It is a crucial part of the validation of the national policy statements. If the Energy and Climate Change Select Committee recommends a debate in the House of Commons, or any noble Lord tables a resolution on one or more of the national policy statements, and the debate cannot be held before the election, we intend to facilitate an early debate or debates as appropriate once the new Parliament resumes. It is not the intention of the relevant Secretaries of State to proceed with the designation process until such debate or debates have taken place.

JUSTICE

Court Fees (Care and Supervision Proceedings)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I have published today Francis Plowden's independent review of court fees in care and supervision proceedings. In May 2009, in response to a recommendation made by Lord Laming in "The Protection of Children in England: a Progress Report", I asked Mr. Plowden to undertake a review to determine whether or not there was incontrovertible evidence that fees were a deterrent to a local authority when they decided whether or not to commence care proceedings. As part of the review, Mr. Plowden considered how budgets were allocated and managed within any local authority area, including how, and by whom, decisions regarding issuing care proceedings were made. Francis Plowden has presented me with a comprehensive and considered report and I am grateful to him for his work. He believes that, at the margins, resource issues, including fees, can play a part in determining when care proceedings are initiated, but concludes that it is unlikely that children have been knowingly left at unavoidable risk by local authorities. He therefore recommends that these fees should be abolished.

The fees for care and supervision proceedings by local authorities were increased in May 2008 from £150 to up to £4,825. To facilitate this, approximately £40 million was transferred from my Department's budget to the Department for Communities and Local Government, and to the Welsh Assembly Government, for onward apportionment to local authorities in England and Wales so that the fee increase would be cost neutral for local authorities.

Francis Plowden commented that there was a sharp fall in the number of applications during spring and autumn 2008, which caused speculation that the increased fees might have been the cause. However, he believes that the introduction of the public law outline in April 2008 is more likely to have been responsible for the temporary reduction in application volumes as local authorities familiarised themselves with the new court procedures and carried out the work required. In any event, application levels have since risen and the latest data shows that this has been sustained with no indications of a return to pre-November 2008 average volumes.

At the outset of the current comprehensive spending review period, the Government responded to requests from local authorities by making an unequivocal commitment to ensuring that local authorities had a stable financial settlement for the duration of that period and that there would be no amendments made to their settlement other than in exceptional circumstances. Lord Laming acknowledged this in his report, commenting that in the event that an independent review recommended abolition of these fees, the appropriate transfers would need to be made back to my Department to enable implementation of such a recommendation.

In such circumstances, and following further consideration of Francis Plowden's report with particular regard to the safety of children, I have agreed that the circumstances surrounding the recommendation to abolish court fees are not of sufficient exception to justify breaking the Government's commitment to giving local authorities financial stability. I have also considered the fact that funding to cover the cost of the fees has been transferred to local authorities up to and including March 2011.

I therefore intend to abolish court fees for care and supervision cases with effect from the next spending review period beginning April 2011. Appropriate adjustments to local authorities' funding will be made at that stage.

The safety and welfare of children is, and always must be, our priority. My decision today means that local authorities can now be certain that they have the £40 million funding for the next financial year to pay for the court proceedings necessary to keep children from harm.

I have placed copies of Francis Plowden's report in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Her Majesty's Courts Service (Key Performance Indicators)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): The following list of key performance indicators has been set for Her Majesty's Courts Service for 2010 to 2011:

1. To commence at least 78 per cent. of cases within the following time scales in the Crown Court:

cases that are sent for trial within 26 weeks of sending;

cases that are committed for trial within 16 weeks of committal;

appeals within 14 weeks of the appeal being lodged;

cases that are committed for sentence within 10 weeks of committal.

2. To speed up criminal cases in the magistrates' courts so that, for charged cases, the average time from charge to disposal is less than six weeks.

3. Time taken to produce and send court results to the police:

95 per cent. of court registers produced and despatched within three working days;

100 per cent. of court registers produced and despatched within six working days.

4. To achieve an 85 per cent. payment rate for financial penalties in the magistrates' courts.

5. For 60 per cent. of all breached community penalties to be resolved within 25 working days of the relevant failure to comply.

6. To increase the proportion of defended small claims that are completed otherwise than by court hearing to 65 per cent.

7. To increase the proportion of defended small claims that are completed (from receipt to final hearing) within 30 weeks to at least 70 per cent.

8. Percentage of care and supervision cases that achieve a final outcome for the child within 30, 50 and 80 weeks:

At least 26 per cent. dealt with within 30 weeks;

At least 66 per cent. dealt with within 50 weeks;

At least 92 per cent. dealt with within 80 weeks.

9. To maintain the 'very satisfied' element of the HMCS court user satisfaction survey at or above the 2007-08 baseline of 41 per cent.

More information on these and other key supporting targets are published in the "HM Courts Service Business Plan for 2010-11". Copies of the business plan for 2010-11 have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

PRIME MINISTER

Assistant Surveillance Commissioners

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): In accordance with Section 63 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, I have agreed to re-appoint as Assistant Surveillance Commissioners his honour Lord Colville of Culross QC and his honour Dr. Colin Kolbert from 1 May 2010 to 30 April 2013, and his honour Norman Jones QC from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2013.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Stern Review (Interim Government Response)

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): Following discussion with the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Tynemouth (Mr. Campbell) the Minister with responsibility for crime reduction, I am pleased to make the following statement to the House.

In September last year, the Minister for Women and Equality and the Home Secretary jointly wrote to the Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee, updating him on progress in relation to the Government's consultation on violence against women and girls, and to inform him of our intention jointly to commission a review of the handling of rape complaints.

This review was commissioned within the context of the cross-Government strategy "Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls", which was published on 25 November 2009. Copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses. The consultation for the strategy had found that women lack confidence in the criminal justice system (CJS), and that this was particularly in evidence in relation to rape.

There have been improvements in how the CJS responds to complaints of rape, evidenced by the increase in victims reporting rape and more cases taken to court resulting in more convictions than before. In addition, this Government have implemented a series of legislative and policy improvements to the way in which rape complaints are handled, and to ensure that there is a greater focus on victims' needs. And as part of the cross-Government VAWG strategy, we made a commitment to exploring the feasibility of setting up and/or extending scrutiny panels, similar to those currently operated by the CPS in relation to hate crime and domestic violence.

However, high-profile cases in the Metropolitan Police Service had exposed how reluctant many rape victims were to report their experiences to the police, and that further improvements could be made in the handling of those complaints where victims did disclose. In response to these cases, a series of measures to improve the investigation and prosecution of rape to ensure victims received a consistent, high-quality service were announced by the Home Office in April 2009, including an inspection of police forces later this year by Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary. In addition, and as part of the work for the cross-Government violence against women and girls strategy, the Home Secretary asked Sara Payne to make recommendations on how the criminal justice system's response to rape victims could be improved.

The report of Sara Payne's review was published alongside "Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls".

However, we took the view that a closer look at the barriers preventing full implementation of current policy was required so we could consider further what more could be done to ensure the effective handling of rape by authorities and to deliver a better service to rape victims. On 22 September 2009, we announced that the noble Baroness, Baroness Stern had agreed to carry out an independent review into the handling of rape complaints, reporting jointly to the Government Equalities Office and the Home Office. Today (15 March 2010), Baroness Stern publishes the findings of her review and recommendations for change.

The Government are grateful to Baroness Stern for conducting this probing review and to the many organisations and individuals who contributed their views. The Government welcome her report and insightful analysis, identifying where further work or reforms are needed and setting out the case for embedding lasting change.

Baroness Stern's review of services shows that strong progress has been made. Rapists now face more than a one in two chance of being convicted, and the measures which have been put in place to improve the response to rape complaints are having an impact, with much good practice evident across the country. However there is much more to be done, both to support victims and to help them have the confidence to pursue complaints, and to improve intelligence-led policing. We will be considering Baroness Stern's recommendations carefully on all these points.

In the Government's interim response to the Stern review, published today, we accept the direction set out in Baroness Stern's report and agree that existing good practice needs to be spread throughout England and Wales to ensure that people have the correct advice and treatment, regardless of where they live. Her report poses a number of challenges, as well as 23 recommendations, which we need to consider before responding more fully later this year. In doing so, the Government will focus on eight key areas:

Tackling misconceptions about rape;

Forensic examinations;

Joining up services;

Confidence in the response to rape;

Special measures;

Support and advocacy;

Prevention and support for particularly vulnerable groups;

Dealing with misunderstandings about compensation.

Copies of Baroness Stern's report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and are available at www.equalities.gov.uk. Copies of the interim response have been placed in the Library and are available at www.equalities.gov.uk. The Government will make a further report to Parliament later this year, with an action plan detailing our full response to the Stern review.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Social Fund Reform

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Yvette Cooper): Today I am publishing the Government's consultation document (Green Paper) on social fund reform. This consultation sets out the package of reforms designed to create a scheme which:

is simpler for customers to understand and use and simpler for our staff to deliver to ensure better value for money;

plays a more active and sustainable role in helping people resolve their longer-term financial needs and supports them to become more financially independent as well as dealing with short-term crises;

is set within the wider context of financial inclusion and education, and is aligned with the range of products and services that the Government deliver for people with complex and enduring needs.

It aims to align the social fund with the Government agenda of financial inclusion and capability, in order to help support the most vulnerable in society towards greater financial independence. It also presents our objectives to ensure that the system is fair, affordable and sustainable for the future. We believe that these proposals will make a very substantial difference to the financial environment experienced by many people.

Copies of the document entitled: "Social Fund reform: debt, credit and low income households" are available in the Vote Office and will be made available later today on the DWP website.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 16 March 2010

CABINET OFFICE

Members and Peers Correspondence 2009

The Minister of State, Cabinet Office (Angela E. Smith): I am publishing today a report on Departments' and agencies' performance on handling Members' and Peers' correspondence during 2009. Details are set out in the table. Correspondence statistics 2008 can be found on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 81-86WS. Departmental figures are based on substantive replies unless otherwise indicated.

The footnotes to the table provide general background information on how the figures have been compiled.

Correspondence from MPs / Peers to Ministers and Agency Chief Executives in 2009

Correspondence from MPs / Peers to Ministers and Agency Chief Executives [1]	*2009*		
Department or Agency	*Target set for reply (working days)*	*Number of letters received*	*% of replies within target*
Attorney General's Office	20	192	88
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills [2]	15	17623	58
Companies House	10	96	100
Insolvency Service	10	794	74
UK Intellectual Property Office	10	481	88
Cabinet Office	15	1444	82
Charity Commission	10	214	78
Department for Children, Schools and Families	15	15256	78
Department for Communities and Local Government	15	9154	63
Planning Inspectorate	10	184	90
Crown Prosecution Service	15	483	96
Department for Culture, Media and Sport [3]	20	3215	56
Royal Parks	20	30	93
Ministry of Defence	15	6254	86
Met Office	10	14	93
Service Personnel and Veterans Agency	15	198	94
Department for Energy and Climate Change [4]	15	9071	51
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	15	12527	73
Animal Health	15	76	93
Marine Fisheries Agency	15	35	82
Rural Payments Agency	15	406	66
Food Standards Agency			
DH Ministers replies	20	408	70*
	20	584	95**
FSA Chair/CE replies	20	120	90
Meat Hygiene Service	15	22	100
* response to non-campaign letters ** response to campaign letters			
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	20	10462	82
Government Equalities Office	20	1438	63
Department of Health	20	16008	93
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	20	516	95*
	20	22	77**
NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency	20	33	94
*Agency Ministerial cases ** Letters sent directly to agency chief executive or where agency chief executives responded on behalf of Ministers			
Home Office	15	9128	88
Criminal Records Bureau	10	933	99
Identity and Passport Service	10	1012	72
UK Border Agency	20	66320	78
Department for International Development	15	2013	95
Ministry of Justice [5]	20	4554	63
HM Courts Service	20	729	65
HM Land Registry	20	52	96
National Archives	20	60	95
National Offender Management Service	20	1723	60
Northern Ireland Court Service	20	16	88
Office of the Public Guardian	20	220	82
Official Solicitor and Public Trustee	20	32	50
Tribunals Service	20	273	66
Northern Ireland Office	15	637	85
Compensation Agency	10	15	73
Northern Ireland Prison Service	10	79	77
Office for National Statistics	10	112	79
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Schools	7	232	58
Office of Fair Trading	15	497	72

Correspondence from MPs / Peers to Ministers and Agency Chief Executives in 2009

Correspondence from MPs / Peers to Ministers and Agency Chief Executives [1]	*2009*		
Department or Agency	*Target set for reply (working days)*	*Number of letters received*	*% of replies within target*
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets	15	200	77
Office of the Leader of the House of Commons	15	418	72
Office of the Leader of the House of Lords	15	63	92
Office of Rail Regulation	20	93	92
Office of Water Services	10	404	58
Postal Services Commission	7	13	77
Scotland Office [6]	15	75	40
Serious Fraud Office	20	43	81
Department for Transport	15	9150	89
Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency	7	1486	100
Driving Standards Agency	10	185	99
Highways Agency	15	443	94
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	10	12	91
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	10	112	98
HM Treasury [7]	15	16251	53
H M Revenue and Customs	15	5492	75
	15	774*	81
National Savings and Investments	15	19	79
Office of Government Commerce	15	47	85
	15	93**	93
* Local office and 'delegated' figures (where local tax offices have replied directly to MPs) ** Letters where chief executive has replied			
Valuation Office	18	25	72
Treasury Solicitor's Department	10	32	100
Wales Office	15	101	82
Department for Work and Pensions	20	18062	76
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	15	6352	99
Debt Management	15	43	86
Health and Safety Executive	15	117	66
Jobcentre Plus	15	2847	93
Pension, Disability and Carers Service	15	2292	84

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[1] Departments and Agencies which received 10 MPs/Peers letters or fewer are not shown in this table. Holding or interim replies are not included unless otherwise indicated. The report does not include correspondence considered as freedom of information requests.

[2] Includes BERR and DIUS. Following an increase in correspondence relating to the recession, a review has been undertaken to improve performance and recommendations are now being implemented. Performance rose to 73 per cent. by end of 2009.

[3] An external review was undertaken mid-year, from which an action plan was agreed. Performance rose to 73 per cent. by end of 2009.

[4] In 2009 DECC's correspondence was handled by a shared services system. DECC now has its own correspondence unit which will lead to an improvement in the handling of correspondence.

[5] A substantial increase in the volume of correspondence received by MOJ has contributed to a downturn in performance. Measures are in place to improve correspondence handling as a matter of urgency and these have led to a significant improvement. Performance rose to 86 per cent. by end of 2009.

[6] The drop in performance in 2009 is largely attributable to delays in receiving essential information. Measures have been put in place to improve our correspondence process as a matter of urgency, including systematic monitoring by senior management.

[7] Performance has been affected by a significant increase in all correspondence to the Treasury, creating a backlog of cases in the first half of 2009. This has been addressed over the course of the year and performance rose to 59 per cent. by end of 2009.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing and Planning Delivery Grant

The Minister for Housing (John Healey): I am announcing today the final allocations of £135 million of housing and planning delivery grant (HPDG) for 2009-10. The grant provides a direct incentive for councils to work with partners in the public and private sector to ensure that new homes are built where they are needed. It is an additional top up to mainstream funding and councils can choose how to spend it locally.

A copy of the determination and a table showing the local authority allocations is available in the Libraries of both Houses.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

EU Foreign Ministers (Informal Meeting)

The Minister for Europe (Chris Bryant): My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary represented the UK at the informal meeting of EU Foreign Ministers—Gymnich—on 5-6 March in Cordoba, Spain.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

Emerging Powers

High Representative Ashton opened by saying the EU's relationship with the strategic powers was one of her top priorities. The transatlantic relationship remained central, but we also needed close engagement with countries like China, Brazil, India, South Africa and Russia. If the EU wanted to be relevant, we needed a direct relationship with these key players.

The Presidency—Moratinos—led a wide-ranging discussion of the EU's approach to the emerging powers following the changes to its structures brought about by the Lisbon treaty. Most Ministers agreed that we needed to make better use of summits and other meetings with these countries and in general take a more strategic and medium-term view of our relations, including now that the High Representative had a five-year term in which to work.

External Action Service

Discussion of the EAS spanned both days. The High Representative set out her thoughts and vision for the EAS including that it should bring coherence to all the EU's external activities. The Foreign Secretary and other Ministers expressed their support for the High Representative and the need for a strong and effective EAS as a key tool to help deliver Europe's priorities.

Middle East Peace Process

The presidency led a short discussion on the middle east peace process, focusing on how to take forward the December 2009 Council conclusions. The High Representative set out her plans to visit the region.

Western Balkans

The three Ministers of the candidate countries—The Former Yogoslav Republic of Macedonia, Croatia and Turkey—joined EU Foreign Ministers for a discussion.

The High Representative and Commissioner Füle stressed the importance of the region for the EU. The future of the region lay within Europe, and Europe would be judged by the effectiveness of its support to its neighbourhood. On visas, Commissioner Füle said the Commission would make recommendations in respect of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania following recent work.

HEALTH

Maternity and Early Years

The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham): The Government have announced today the launch of a strategic vision for the further transformation of maternity services and early years services. "Maternity and Early Years—Making a Good Start to Family Life" has been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office.

The document has been developed jointly by the Department of Health, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Prime Minister's strategy unit, drawing on the views of mothers and fathers, children's centre staff, local health practitioners and children.

"Maternity and Early Years—Making a Good Start to Family Life" makes the clear case for helping families to give their baby the best possible start in life and sets out a vision of renewed and more integrated maternity and early years services that put the excellent clinical care already available at the centre of a wider network of family support:

with commitments to consult on new entitlements for women to access maternity services early in pregnancy and make important choices around where to have their baby;

where local services will join up so that families have continuous care and support from early pregnancy to at least the child's sixth month—with a named Sure Start children's centre contact offered to parents early in pregnancy who will invite them into the children's centre, and access to a health visitor for every children's centre;

where families will also be offered more help to prepare for parenthood so they can give their baby the best possible start in life—with new antenatal education opportunities rolled out in settings that suit parents and with a further focus on the opportunities for fathers to get more involved—including an invitation for both parents to attend a family start meeting at their children's centre and an opportunity to agree a parents' plan together; and

understanding that families will have very different needs, and that some may want more support in preparing for parenthood, with extra support for those families that need it—for instance by expanding the family nurse partnership to help young, vulnerable first-time families.

With over 3,500 Sure Start children's centres now established across the country, in addition to the existing network of GP surgeries and health centres, we are well placed to reach all families, and to make sure all families can draw on the support they want in preparing for and bringing up their baby.

Health and Social Care (Volunteering)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): The Government have announced today the launch of a strategic vision for volunteering for health and social care. "Volunteering—involving people and communities in delivering and developing health and social care services" has been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office.

The vision is of a health and social care environment in which volunteering is encouraged and supported wherever it has the power to reduce inequality, enhance service quality or improve outcomes for individuals and communities. The strategic vision has been developed by the Department in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders from across the third sector, national health service and local government.

The Government's emphasis for the future of health and social care is on better and more personalised services. "High Quality Care for All" urges the NHS to place quality at the heart of everything it does. "Putting People First" and the transformation of adult social care services increasingly place individuals in control of decisions about the services they receive and the resources that pay for them. These developments present new roles and opportunities for volunteering that complement services provided by the paid work force and engage the expertise of service users in the design and delivery of services.

Volunteers already make an enormous difference to the experience people have of the health and care services they come into contact with—making a huge contribution to almost every sphere of health and social care. Volunteering helps to create people-centred services; keeps people active, engaged and independent; and helps to meet the support needs of patients, carers and users of care services. It can and does contribute significantly to: quality, choice and innovation in services; building social capital and reduced isolation; enhancing the capacity of preventative care; meeting the culturally specific needs of health and social care service users; and increasing connections between citizens and the services they use.

Together these build a strong case for people across the health and social care system to refresh their thinking about volunteering and its role in their organisation or community. The strategic vision provides a starting point and an opportunity for leaders in this field to be at the forefront of service innovation, community engagement and improved user experience.

Articulating key messages and a framework for action in relation to leadership, partnership, commissioning, volunteer management, and support for individual volunteers, the vision is designed to engage everybody working in the health and social care system, in the public and third sectors, to support its aim to: enhance the profile and involvement of volunteers; highlight its potential in terms of health and well-being; improve the evidence base for investment; promote best practice; reduce obstacles and increase opportunities that make volunteering accessible to all; and inspire and enable change to support its delivery.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Control Order Powers (Three-month Report)

The Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson): Section 14(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of the control order powers during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

The control order regime

In the 16 September 2009 quarterly report to Parliament on control orders, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department made clear that he considered that the control order regime remained viable following the June 2009 House of Lords judgment in *AF & Others*, but intended to keep that assessment under review as cases were considered by the courts. The High Court has upheld four control orders since the House of Lords judgment, following court proceedings that were compliant with the article 6 test laid down in *AF & Others*. The Government therefore remain of the view that the regime remains viable. The Government's position was set out in greater detail in their memorandum to the Home Affairs Committee on post-legislative scrutiny of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (Cm 7797), which was laid before Parliament on 1 February.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department also asked the independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, Lord Carlile, to consider in his fifth annual report on the operation of the 2005 Act the continuing viability of the control order regime in the light of *AF & Others*. I welcome the conclusion of Lord Carlile in that report, which was laid before Parliament on 1 February

> "that abandoning the control orders system entirely would have a damaging effect on national security. There is no better means of dealing with the serious and continuing risk posed by some individuals."

Lord Carlile emphasises that in reaching this conclusion he has

> "considered the effects of the court decisions on disclosure. I do not consider that their effect is to make control orders impossible".

Lord Carlile's conclusion supports our view that control orders continue to be an important tool to protect the public from the risk of terrorism where individuals who we suspect of involvement in terrorism-related activity cannot be prosecuted or deported.

The powers in the 2005 Act have now been renewed by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department for a further year from 11 March 2010, after both Houses of Parliament supported its renewal.

The exercise of the control order powers in the last quarter

As explained in previous quarterly statements on control orders, control order obligations are tailored to the individual concerned and are based on the terrorism-related risk that individual poses. Each control order is kept under regular review to ensure that obligations remain necessary and proportionate. The Home Office continues to hold control order review groups (CORGs) every quarter, with representation from law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to keep the obligations in every control order under regular and formal review and to facilitate a review of appropriate exit strategies. During this reporting period, no CORGs were held in relation to the orders currently in force. This is because meetings were held just before, and are due to be held just after, this reporting period. Other meetings were held on an ad hoc basis as specific issues arose.

During the period 11 December 2009 to 10 March 2010, one non-derogating control order has been made and served. No control orders have been renewed in accordance with section 2(6) of the 2005 Act in this reporting period. In this reporting period there have been two revocations of control orders that were in force. Neither control order was revoked because it was not possible to meet the disclosure test set out in the House of Lords judgment in *AF & Others*. The Secretary of State revoked one control order because it was no longer considered necessary, and was directed by the court to revoke another on the basis that the court considered that the order was no longer necessary.

In total, 11 control orders are currently in force, 10 of which are in respect of British citizens. All of these control orders are non-derogating. Six individuals subject to a control order live in the Metropolitan Police Service area; the remaining individuals live in other police force areas. Two individuals have been charged with breaching their control order obligations; no criminal proceedings for breach of a control order were concluded during this reporting period.

During this reporting period, 44 modifications of control order obligations were made; 13 requests to modify control order obligations were refused.

Section 10(1) of the 2005 Act provides a right of appeal against a decision by the Secretary of State to renew a non-derogating control order or to modify an obligation imposed by a non-derogating control order without consent. One appeal under section 10(1) of the 2005 Act has been lodged with the High Court during this reporting period. A right of appeal is also provided for by section 10(3) of the 2005 Act against decisions by the Secretary of State to refuse a request by a controlled person to revoke their order and/or to modify any obligation under the order. During this reporting period two appeals have been lodged with the High Court under section 10(3) of the 2005 Act.

Judgments have been handed down in relation to five control orders in substantive judicial review proceedings under section 3(10) of the 2005 Act during this reporting period. Four of these control orders have been upheld by the courts. The five judgments are these:

Judgment was handed down by the High Court in *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. BG & BH* on 15 December 2009. Both control orders were upheld. No further detail can be given for legal reasons.

Judgment was handed down in *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AM* on 21 December 2009. The High Court upheld this control order as necessary and proportionate, finding that there was overwhelming evidence of AM's past involvement in terrorism-related activity and his future intentions. AM sought permission to appeal against this judgment on various grounds and permission has been granted.

In Secretary of *State for the Home Department v. Al-Saadi*, also handed down on 21 December 2009, the High Court found that while it was necessary for him to be placed on a control order when it was initially imposed, it was no longer necessary. The court directed the Secretary of State to revoke the control order.

Judgment in Secretary of *State for the Home Department v. BM* was handed down on 16 February 2010. The control order was upheld by the court on the grounds that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that BM is or has been involved in terrorism-related activity and that the imposition of a control order on him is necessary for purposes connected with protecting the public from a risk of terrorism.

A judgment was handed down on 18 January 2010 in the case *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AE & AF*. This determined two preliminary issues: whether in circumstances where the requirements of article 6 of the ECHR compel the Secretary of State to withdraw the material relied upon in support of a control order such that the order cannot be maintained, the court should quash the control order or direct revocation; and whether the disclosure requirements identified in *AF & Others* apply where the Secretary of State wishes to rely upon closed material to defend against a claim for damages by a controlled person. The court found that in these circumstances the order should be quashed and that the requirements in *AF & Others* does apply, although the judge commented that it did not follow that the controlled individuals would automatically succeed on liability on all claims against the Secretary of State, and that even if they did recover any damages, the level of compensation payable was likely to be low. The Secretary of State is appealing against the judgment.

In addition to the appeals to the Court of Appeal mentioned above, one further individual subject to a control order has applied for, and been granted, permission to appeal to the Court of Appeal. One individual has been granted permission to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Most full judgments are available at http://www.bailii.org/.

JUSTICE

"Cutting Crime: The Case for Justice Reinvestment"

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Maria Eagle): I have laid today before Parliament the Government response to the Justice Committee report: "Cutting Crime: the case for justice reinvestment". This document sets out the response of the Government to the report published by the House of Commons Justice Committee in January 2010.

In January 2008 the Justice Committee launched an inquiry into the cost implications of the Government's current strategy to reduce reoffending and potential alternative policies. The Committee's report contains 98 recommendations and conclusions and these make a case for a systematic approach to justice reinvestment as a way to reduce the size of the prison population, as well as providing an analysis of the current strategy for reducing reoffending and cutting crime. We are very grateful to the Committee for their contribution in this important debate.

The Government share with the Committee the ambition to tackle both crime and the causes of crime: to reserve custody for the most serious offenders; to make full use of tough community sentences that demand change from the offender and maintain public confidence; and to invest in 'what works' in reducing reoffending. The Government approach involves punishment for breaking the law, and giving offenders the opportunity to reform and turn away from crime. The aim is to ensure justice for victims and local communities; punishment and reform for offenders; and, ultimately, value for the taxpayer. This is a complex undertaking, and one in which we have already achieved much: according to the British crime survey, crime has dropped by over a third since 1997, and adult reoffending is down 20.3 per cent. since 2000 and 11.1 per cent. since 2005. However, we want to go further and will reflect carefully on the Committee's analysis and recommendations.

Government have a duty to protect the public, and a key element of this is to provide sufficient prison places for the most dangerous, serious and persistent offenders. We are clear that prison remains the right option for these offenders and that a prison sentence, long or short, can be essential to demonstrating to law-abiding communities that offenders face the full range of punishments, including the deprivation of liberty behind bars. We must ensure therefore, that prison is available as an option for sentencers when necessary. The Government are committed to increasing prison capacity to 96,000 places by 2014 to meet projected demand.

Nevertheless, we recognise that for a significant number of offenders community sentences can be more effective: in 2008, the number of people sentenced to community sentences was 190,171 compared to 99,525 for immediate custody. More can be done as part of a wider approach that includes tough community sentences for lower-risk offenders and diversion away from the criminal justice system where other alternatives would be more effective, in particular access to mental health services.

Innovations such as intensive alternatives to custody, integrated offender management, and the prolific and other priority offenders programme, are clear examples of how partners can work together to focus resources where they can make the greatest impact. Our work to take forward the recommendations set out in the Corston and Bradley reviews (for women in prison and offenders with mental illnesses respectively) demonstrates our commitment to ensuring better use of community alternatives where this is possible and safe to do.

The Government seek to ensure that prison is used in a measured, responsible way on behalf of the wider community, that what happens in prison is effective and efficiently delivered, and that resources can be used in both custody and the community to reduce reoffending. Our detailed response is set out in the Government response to the Justice Committee report "Cutting Crime: the case for justice reinvestment", copies of which have been placed in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

WORK AND PENSIONS

National Employment Savings Trust

The Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society (Angela Eagle): I can confirm the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority signed yesterday the contract for the administration of NEST with Tata Consultancy Services. This marks another important milestone on the road to delivering a pension scheme for the millions of people currently excluded from low-cost pension saving.

As the terms of this contract have been finalised, the Government are able now to set out their plans for financing NEST.

NEST will be paid for by member charges. In the long term, it will be self-financing, and Government expect it to realise the Pensions Commission's ambition of a charge level as low as 0.3 per cent. of members' funds under management—an annual management charge (AMC) of 0.3 per cent.

Nevertheless, NEST will need to meet set-up and operational costs incurred in the period before charge revenues are sufficient to meet the full costs of the scheme. Therefore, NEST is expected to make a small additional charge on contributions of around 2 per cent., until set-up costs are extinguished.

This means the members of NEST, many of whom are expected to have low and moderate earnings, will, for the first time, be able to save for a pension while facing charges at levels currently only available to higher earners, or those accepted into large pension schemes.

NEST will have a public service duty, to accept all employers who want to use the scheme to discharge their duty to automatically enrol workers, irrespective of costs. This means NEST will be required to bear costs other pension providers do not face. In recognition of this, and in order to preserve the scheme's low-cost aims, the Government intend to provide relief to the scheme to limit the overall interest charges scheme members incur on funds borrowed to the Government's cost of borrowing. The Government are currently seeking the European Commission's approval that this approach is consistent with European rules on competition and state aid.

The Government believe that this funding package represents a fair balance between delivering good value to NEST's members, ensuring affordability for the taxpayer and putting NEST on a level playing field with the existing pensions industry.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 17 March 2010

TREASURY

Turks and Caicos Islands (Counter-Terrorism)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): An Order in Council in respect of the Turks and Caicos Islands has been made today. It comes into force on 18 March 2010.

The Order in Council provides new powers for the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands to implement a graduated range of financial restrictions in response to certain risks to the interests of the Turks and Caicos Islands or the United Kingdom. The risks it addresses are those posed by money laundering, terrorist financing, and the proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons. Any directions given under the Order will be made by the Governor of the Islands.

The powers replicate those in schedule 7 to the Counter-Terrorism Act 2008 which apply to the United Kingdom. The Order in Council has been made in response to a request by the Turks and Caicos Islands.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Laming Report (Government Response)

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): My right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Justice and for Health, the Home Secretary and I are today publishing "The Government's Response to Lord Laming: One Year On", an update on progress on implementing the Government's action plan in response to Lord Laming's report, "The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report" published in March 2009 and a description of the priorities for the year ahead.

A great deal has been achieved. Over 50,000 people have registered for information on how to become a social worker in response to our national recruitment campaign. The action on health visiting programme has raised the profile of this important profession and introduced new requirements to monitor their numbers and case loads. There has also been significant focus and challenge on arrangements for child safeguarding across the NHS over the last year. A new police child protection delivery plan has also been commissioned which will set out recommendations for future improvements to police capability and practice to enhance the delivery of child protection within forces.

The report also pays tribute to the many thousands of social workers, teachers, police officers, doctors, nurses, health visitors and many others who support and protect children and young people. They are making a positive difference to so many children and young people's lives every day.

We are also publishing today a revised version of "Working Together to Safeguard Children". This is the statutory guidance used by all those who work with children, young people, families and their carers. It implements many of Lord Laming's recommendations and also takes account of a consultation exercise that ran from December 2009 to February 2010. The revised guidance strengthens the requirements relating to the publication of serious case review (SCR) executive summaries, including requiring local safeguarding children boards (LSCBs) to make sure that executive summaries accurately reflect the full overview report and include:

information about the review process;

key issues arising from the case;

the recommendations; and

the action plan.

These requirements, made explicit in a template setting out a recommended format for SCR executive summaries, will build on the action which we have already taken to further strengthen SCRs. Today's revised guidance also builds on responses from experts in child protection such as the NSPCC and Barnado's.

We will be working with stakeholders in the next few months to produce a short practitioner guide to complement "Working Together".

We are also publishing today for consultation "Local Safeguarding Children Boards—Practice Guidance" and the Government's response to the "Working Together to Safeguard Children" consultation.

Also today, Sir Roger Singleton, the Government's first chief adviser on the safety of children, has produced his first independent annual report to Parliament on progress in safeguarding. I have written today to Sir Roger thanking him for his advice and support over the past year which has helped to shape and strengthen safeguarding policy across many areas. His report recognises the progress made but it also challenges us to go further in respect of resources, working closely with partners, learning from serious case reviews and supporting practice improvement. We welcome his report and look forward to working with him in the year ahead to tackle the issues he identifies, in partnership with the national safeguarding delivery unit and the many safeguarding stakeholders, service managers and front-line practitioners, who are equally committed to making a difference for children, young people, families and carers.

One of the issues identified in his report is the increase in demand that many children's services are experiencing, especially children's social care. As a first step in responding to that, today we are announcing a new local social work improvement fund of £23 million. This can be used flexibly by local authorities and their partners to put in place local solutions which help to reduce pressure at the front line and to build capacity for earlier support and intervention.

This commitment of new funding sits alongside "Building a Safe and Confident Future: Implementing the Recommendations of the Social Work Task Force" which we are also publishing today. This sets out our long-term and ambitious programme of reform for social work.

Keeping children safe is our highest priority. I am committed to working across Government and with our national and local partners to do all we can to support, and where appropriate to challenge, with the aim of delivering the best possible outcomes for children and young people.

We are placing a copy of the above documents in the Libraries of both Houses. For more information, please visit: www.dcsf.gov.uk/nsdu and www.dcsf.gov.uk/swrb.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Annual Report on Human Rights

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): The Foreign and Commonwealth Office 2009 annual report on human rights will be published at 5 pm. The report explains the Government's activities and policies to address human rights challenges overseas in the period 1 January to 31 December 2009

The report will be laid before Parliament this afternoon and copies will be made available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office in the House of Lords. A copy of the report is also available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website: www.fco.gov.uk. I commend the report to the House.

FCO Services (Performance Targets)

The Minister for Europe (Chris Bryant): My noble Friend the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead, has made the following written ministerial statement: FCO Services operates as a trading fund of the FCO. I have set the following performance targets for 2010-11:

An in-year surplus before interest and tax of at least £4 million.

A return on capital employed of at least 3.5 per cent. (weighted average).

Wider market revenue growth of 10 per cent. on that achieved in 2009-10.

A contribution to the FCO's comprehensive spending review commitments by delivering £12 million of cumulative cash savings over the three years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

A utilisation rate for revenue earning staff of at least 76 per cent.

A customer satisfaction rating of at least 85 per cent. satisfied or very satisfied.

FCO Services will report to Parliament on its success against these targets through its annual report for 2010-11.

HEALTH

Social Work Task Force

The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham): With my right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Children, Schools and Families, and Business, Innovation and Skills, I am publishing today "Building a Safe and Confident Future: Implementing the Recommendations of the Social Work Task Force". In December 2009, the social work taskforce made 15 focused recommendations for the fundamental reform of the system that supports social workers in England. This publication sets out how the Government are working with employers, higher education institutions, the profession itself and people who use social work services to put those recommendations into effect.

Every day high-quality social work makes a big difference, not only to the safety, prospects and life chances of individuals, but also to the stability and equality of our society. It is therefore essential that the right support and systems are in place to enable social workers to practise to the highest professional standards.

"Building a Safe and Confident Future" sets out a route map for how the taskforce's recommendations will be achieved over the next five to 10 years. Some of the changes recommended by the taskforce can and must make a difference immediately. Other taskforce recommendations will require extensive consultation and require time to put in place. "Building a Safe and Confident Future" sets out the anticipated time scales for implementing all of these recommendations, including:

work already under way in establishing the independent College of Social Work with the recruitment process for an interim chair to begin this month and the expectation that the college will be a fully functioning independent organisation by April 2011;

the expectation that over the coming year all social worker employers will work with their staff to conduct a local "health check" of the support they have in place, and to take action for improvement where necessary;

improvements to initial social worker education with strengthened entry requirements to the social work degree;

reviews of the degree curriculum, bursary arrangement and the quality and quantity of practice placements, and more transparent and improved regulation of higher education providers;

consultation and assessment of options and impact for the introduction of the recommended assessed year in employment and licence to practise; and

consultation on a new framework for continuing professional development in social work beginning in summer 2010 with the framework to be phased in from 2011.

The reform programme will require sustained commitment from all partners over a number of years. To establish the firmest possible foundation for this, "Building a Safe and Confident Future" is accompanied by a commitment to Government investment of more than £200 million in 2010-11. This investment is additional to core funding for social work in higher education, local government and the NHS. It will be used to support recruitment, student bursaries and practice placements, work force development, improvement of IT in children's services and supporting employers to remodel services.

In recognition of particular pressures on local authority children's services, £23 million of Government's £200 million investment in social work next year will go directly to LAs to put in place local solutions which help to reduce pressure on front-line social workers and will build capacity for reform and improvement. Local authorities will be expected to consult with social workers and local safeguarding partners in deciding how to use it. This will be accompanied by a £15 million capital grant from DCSF to local authorities for the improvement of information technology systems, including the Integrated Children's System.

We are placing a copy of "Building a Safe and Confident Future: Implementing the Recommendations of the Social Work Task Force" in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police National Database Code of Practice

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary today has laid before the House a statutory code of practice on the operation and use of the Police National Database (PND). The code of practice is made under section 39A of the Police Act 1996, following a public consultation exercise which finished at the beginning of February 2010.

The PND will, for the first time, enable the police service in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and other law enforcement bodies that support public protection, to share, access and search existing local intelligence and operational information on a national basis. The PND fulfils one of the key recommendations of Sir Michael Bichard's inquiry into the Soham murders and will replace the interim information-sharing solution we put in place in 2005, the IMPACT nominal index.

The PND, which is due to be launched in May 2010, will provide forces with immediate access to up-to-date information from across the service. It will bring together existing data from five operational areas of policing—custody, crime, intelligence, child abuse and domestic abuse—in to one central system. It will help the police to prevent and detect crime, with a focus on safeguarding children and vulnerable people, countering terrorism, and preventing and disrupting serious and organised crime.

The purpose of the code of practice is to promote consistent and lawful use of the PND. Chief police officers will have to have regard to the code and the supporting guidance when adopting practices for the use of the PND and the information obtained from it. This will help to ensure that such information is used effectively for policing purposes.

The PND will not hold new information—it will store intelligence and other information held on local force systems—but there will be concerns about how this information is used. The code of practice is one of a number of important safeguards that will help to prevent misuse of the new system.

Copies of the code of practice will be made available in the Vote Office.

JUSTICE

Land Registry

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): Land Registry is announcing today the conclusions of its consultations on the five-year programme of reorganisation and transformation that that was set out in my earlier statement on 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 76-77WS.

Land Registry believes that its decisions will help create an organisation that can meet the challenges of a developing property market, that can live within its means and that can continue to provide an outstanding service to its customers.

Land Registry has been involved in detailed discussions with its staff and their union representatives covering all the proposals since October and held a public consultation on the proposals to close five offices. Over 350 responses were received to the public consultation and Land Registry has made changes as a result. In addition, almost 600 members of the public and businesses took part in questionnaire surveys aimed at assessing the impact of the proposed office closures, and of these, over 100 were engaged in follow-up telephone surveys and a further 36 business customers in focus groups.

Land Registry has recognised particular concerns that the initial proposals could have left them with no presence in the south east of England (with the future of its head office being uncertain at that time). This would have meant that access to certain services that are currently provided face-to-face would have been restricted in this area.

In response to those concerns, Land Registry will now keep open their offices at Croydon and Peterborough. Land Registry will now only be closing two offices completely in 2011, those at Stevenage and Tunbridge Wells. In addition, the main Portsmouth office will close by 28 February 2011. Land Registry does, however, intend to retain a reduced presence in Portsmouth, co-located with Portsmouth city council, until 31 March 2013. Land Registry has decided upon this approach in recognition of representations that, due to particular local circumstances, a longer period of transition was desirable.

Land Registry will close one of its offices in Plymouth, relocating the staff affected to its other main building in the city.

The conclusion of the head office review has resulted in a decision to co-locate this with the Croydon local office. Discussions will be now held with staff and their unions, and work will be done to ensure that customers using the contact centre at Lincoln's Inn Fields are alerted to the changes.

Land Registry's board also recognises that the prospect of a further two office closures beyond 2011 was creating particular uncertainty. Therefore, further staff reductions beyond 2011 will be achieved as far as possible through targeted voluntary redundancy severance, rather than office closures.

A combination of office closures and voluntary severance means Land Registry will reduce by 1400 staff, to 4600 by 2011. Additional voluntary severance between 2011 and 2014 should result in a further reduction to 3800. The staff numbers used here are on a full-time equivalent (FTE) basis. The total number of staff in post, taking account of part-time working etc, is estimated at just over 5,000 by the end of 2011, and 4,200 by the end of 2014. This decision means that a third less staff will be facing compulsory redundancy than was originally envisaged.

The proposals regarding the outsourcing of certain support functions have been confirmed.

The decisions announced today retain a greater office presence than the original proposals and rely more on the use of voluntary redundancies, but are still expected to save around £500 million over 10 years.

Final decisions, following consultation, should mitigate significantly the impact on Land Registry's loyal and hard-working staff. There will be more opportunities for staff to apply for voluntary severance. For those facing compulsory redundancy, there will be more opportunities for re-deployment in Land Registry or to other Government Departments, and a comprehensive support package is being put in place—including outplacement support, opportunities for further education and financial advice.

Land Registry believes that the decisions will allow it to make far better use of its buildings and to create significant efficiency savings.

Building as robust and sustainable an organisation as possible will allow Land Registry to be proactive rather than passive in the face of market changes and to be in good shape for a recovery in the property market. Land Registry will be formulating a clear vision and strategic plan of delivery over the coming months to position itself for the future. Land Registry will continue to work to meet the needs of its customers and harness technology to build services around those needs.

The Lord Chancellor also approved changes to Land Registry's governance arrangements that will result in a new Land Registry board, chaired by a non-executive chairman and with more non-executive directors. The new arrangements will strengthen Land Registry's corporate governance and ensure that the actions of the chief land registrar and his management team are subject to appropriate scrutiny.

Land Registry have today published "Land Registry's Accelerated Transformation Programme: Consultation Responses Report", copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Prison Service Pay Review Body Appointments

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Maria Eagle): My right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice has appointed Professor John Beath for three years, and re-appointed John Davies and Bronwen Curtis, also for three years, as members of the Prison Service Pay Review Body, all commencing March 2010. The appointment and re-appointments have been conducted in accordance with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments code of practice for ministerial appointments to public bodies.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Devolution (Policing and Justice)

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): On 9 March 2010 the Northern Ireland Assembly voted, on a cross-community basis, to request the devolution of matters relating to policing and justice. The legislation required to give effect to the transfer of these powers will be debated in the House next week.

To underpin the practical arrangements relating to policing and justice post-devolution to the Northern Ireland Assembly, several documents have been developed or revised. These documents are, in summary:

A Protocol on National Security

The national security protocol sets out how the Secretary of State and the Justice Minister will work together where there is an interface between the Justice Minister's responsibilities for policing and justice and the Secretary of State's statutory responsibility for national security.

Concordats on Judicial Independence and on Prosecutorial Independence

Concordats are non-legally binding agreements between the UK Government and the devolved Administration. Both of these documents underscore the principles of judicial and prosecutorial independence enshrined in legislation, and reflect the constitutional position that there should be a clear separation between the executive arm of Government and the administration of the law.

Intergovernmental Agreements on Criminal Justice Co-operation and on Police Co-operation

There are existing agreements in these fields between the two sovereign Governments of the United Kingdom and Ireland and they are binding in international law. They now incorporate minimal amendments that are necessary to take account of the devolution in responsibility for policing and justice. The purpose of the agreements is to underpin cross-border co-operation on policing and criminal justice.

A separate protocol on policing architecture is in development and will be finalised by the Northern Ireland Executive after devolution. I expect to be able to share this with Parliament at a later date.

I have arranged for copies of each of the documents to be placed in the Library of the House.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 18 March 2010

TREASURY

Terrorist Asset-Freezing

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): Following the decision of the Supreme Court quashing the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2006, and its indication that the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009 was vulnerable to being quashed on the same basis as the 2006 Order, Parliament passed the Asset-Freezing (Temporary Provisions) Act 2010 in February. The Act restores the validity in law of the UK's terrorist asset-freezing regime until 31 December 2010, providing a period for Parliament to consider and pass more permanent legislation without, in the meantime, incurring a gap in our terrorist asset-freezing regime that would have damaged national security.

The Government have set out their proposals for permanent terrorist asset-freezing legislation in the draft Terrorist Asset-Freezing Bill that was published on 5 February 2010. The structure of the draft Bill follows closely that of the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009 and contains a number of safeguards to protect human rights, for example the requirement that asset freezes can only be made where necessary for public protection and the requirement that asset freezes expire after 12 months unless the Treasury has reviewed the case and made a fresh decision to renew the asset freeze.

The Government are committed fully to ensuring that there is proper transparency and accountability to Parliament with respect to the operation of the terrorist asset-freezing regime. That is why since December 2006, the Treasury has reported quarterly to Parliament on the operation of the terrorist asset-freezing regime. The most recent report was laid on 8 March 2010.

The draft Terrorist Asset-Freezing Bill will further strengthen transparency and accountability to Parliament, by enshrining in law the requirement to report quarterly to Parliament on the operation of the terrorist asset-freezing regime, and by requiring an annual independent review of the asset-freezing regime, with a report following such a review to be laid before Parliament.

Consistent with our commitment to transparency, the Government have made it clear that they wish there to be full and proper scrutiny of our proposals for new terrorist asset-freezing legislation. These are important legislative proposals. It is right that members of the public and other interested parties should have the opportunity to consider the proposals and submit views and evidence. And it is right that Parliament's consideration of the legislation in due course should be informed by the views and evidence of the public and interested parties. This is why the Government proposed a sunset clause of 31 December 2010 in the temporary legislation—to allow sufficient time for external views and evidence to be gathered and considered by Parliament when it scrutinises the new legislation.

The Government are today launching a public consultation exercise on the draft Terrorist Asset-Freezing Bill, which will close in three months' time on 18 June 2010. The consultation document, which would complement and aid any future scrutiny by Members of both Houses or a Select Committee, if that is the decision of Parliament, explains the background to terrorist asset-freezing: the terrorist threat and the role of finance in supporting terrorism; the international framework for terrorist asset-freezing; and the UK's current approach to terrorist asset-freezing. The consultation document also sets out how our current terrorist asset-freezing legislation works and explains the provisions in the proposed new terrorist asset-freezing legislation. The consultation particularly invites views on the following questions:

> Does the draft Bill set out the most effective way of meeting our UN obligations and protecting national security while also ensuring sufficient safeguards in respect of human rights?
>
> Do you have any views on the current operation of the UK's asset freezing regime under the Terrorism Orders?
>
> Does the regulatory impact assessment reflect accurately the costs and benefits of the regime? Is there more that can be done to reduce the costs for the financial sector and others in implementing the regime while maintaining its effectiveness?

The Government hope that the consultation exercise will be useful in stimulating public debate on these important issues and that it will provide a valuable source of views and evidence that will assist Parliament in scrutinising the Terrorist Asset-Freezing Bill in due course.

The Government are keen to work with Parliamentary Committees and all Members of both Houses of Parliament to seek to achieve a cross-party approach to taking forward the draft legislation.

State of the Estate

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): Today I have placed copies of the report on "The State of the Estate in 2009" in the Libraries of both Houses. This report, required by the Climate Change Act 2008, provides an assessment of the efficiency and sustainability of the Government's civil estate and records the good progress that Government are making as well the improvements that continue to be made. This is the second time that Government have reported in such a comprehensive way and this has allowed improvement trends to be analysed. The report is published on an annual basis.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Capenhurst Nuclear Site

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Mr. David Kidney): My noble Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change today made the following statement:

> I would like to inform the House that a direction modifying and partially revoking the Energy Act designating directions for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's Capenhurst site has been laid before Parliament.

The direction removes two small plots of land from the area designated in 2005 and we are satisfied that NDA has discharged all its responsibilities in relation to decommissioning and clean up of this land. This area may be reused by Urenco in the future, and potentially provides for future investment at the site.

Any new developments will be subject to regulatory and other consenting processes.

HEALTH

Health Select Committee Report on Alcohol (Government Response)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Gillian Merron): We are laying today before Parliament the Government's response (Cm 7832) to the Health Select Committee report on Alcohol, which was published on 8 January 2010.

The range of the Health Select Committee's inquiry and their report recognises the scale and complexity of the challenge we face. Alcohol is a rapidly rising major public health challenge and the Government have been working hard to address it, but there is no single action we can take to change our culture overnight.

The Government's response welcomes the Health Select Committee's thorough and far-reaching report on alcohol. While we are working to deliver our current strategy, we believe their recommendations will make an important and lasting contribution to the ways in which Government and society regard this important issue.

The breadth of the Committee's inquiry and the nature of the report has required in-depth consultations across Government. In particular, the Department has liaised closely and extensively on this response with those other Departments called to give oral evidence to the Committee: the Treasury, the Home Office and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. Each of those Departments has also wished to ensure that the Committee received the fullest response where their areas of responsibility and those of the Department of Health coincide.

The Government take the health and social harms caused by alcohol seriously and our Government strategy on alcohol recognises the challenges we face as a society.

Action on alcohol requires close working between sectors and Departments, and a careful balance between protecting the rights of the individual, and protecting the health of the nation.

The comprehensive strategy we have in place tackles these problems in four main areas:

to help people make informed decisions (for example, information and education campaigns and labelling). The Committee recognises that information and education policies do have a role as part of a comprehensive strategy;

to create a healthier environment (for example, through licensing and enforcement regimes). The Committee has welcomed the mandatory code on alcohol retailing and called for its early introduction;

to provide advice, support and treatment for people at risk (for example, providing "brief interventions" in primary care and treatment services for dependent drinkers). We welcome the Committee's view that early detection and intervention in alcohol-related ill health are both effective and cost-effective; and

to improve the underpinning delivery system to support those services. For example, from 2008 the Government created the first ever indicator for primary care trusts to tackle alcohol-related hospital admissions. Our alcohol improvement programme supports PCTs taking action in this area).

Current levels of alcohol-related hospital admissions, crime, and deaths are unacceptable. Much more can, and will, be done to turn around the drinking culture in this country. We are currently taking forward action on a mandatory code to tackle the irresponsible promotion of alcohol. New, and strengthened, campaigns, this year will raise public awareness further on the link between drinking too much and poor health, and on the harm that alcohol can do to children.

Today's publication is in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Crowded Places (Terrorist Attack)

The Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Office, Lord West of Spithead, has made today the following written ministerial statement:

The then Home Secretary, my right hon. Friend Jacqui Smith, announced in her statement on 14 November 2007, *Official Report* Vol. 467, c. 44WS, the outcome of my review on how best we protect crowded places from terrorist attack.

This review concluded that further improvements would be achieved by putting in place a number of initiatives. These included publishing, after further consultation, guidance on a new strategic national framework to encourage greater partnership working at the local level and doing more to protect buildings from terrorism from the design stage onwards.

We published for public consultation on 20 April 2009 two documents that set out the Government's approach to reducing the vulnerability of crowded places to terrorist attack. The consultation period ran for 12 weeks and concluded on 10 July 2009 and was supported by a series of stakeholder events in the English regions and in Scotland and Wales. We received 103 written responses, (mainly from private and public sector organisations). We have been very pleased with the level of engagement a wide range of partners have had with the consultation process. We are also pleased that most respondents thought that the Government's approach, with its emphasis on identifying and describing the potential contributions key stakeholders could make, was the right one.

In the light of the consultation exercise, the Government are publishing today a number of documents. "Working Together to Protect Crowded Place" relates to the United Kingdom as a whole and while reflecting the differing arrangements in the devolved Administrations, it aims to encourage greater partnership working at the local level between local authorities, other local partners and in particular businesses.

"Crowded Places: The Planning System and Counter-Terrorism" is jointly published by the Home Office and the Department for Communities and Local Government and is sharply focused on guidance that is directly relevant to the role of planning officers. While this document applies only to England, it will be of interest to devolved Administrations in considering what guidance they might offer within the context of their own planning systems.

"Protecting Crowded Places: Design and Technical Issues" is jointly published by the Home Office, the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) and the police National Counter-Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO). It contains design and technical counter-terrorism protective security guidance that will be of particular interest to architects and designers and their clients.

We are also publishing today on the Home Office website, an impact assessment and an accompanying equality impact assessment, including the Government's response to its recommendations.

We will keep our overall approach, contained in the published documents, under review to ensure that it delivers the proportionate reductions in the vulnerabilities of crowded places that we want to see.

Copies of the documents published today will be placed in the House Library.

Immigration Rules

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): I wish to make the following statement.

Armed Forces

I am making a change to the Immigration Rules, laid before the House today, to change marriage visa age policy so that the age requirement is lowered to 18 for serving members of the armed forces and their partners. This recognises the role of partners in supporting those on the frontline. I believe that it is important that we give the armed forces special consideration to reflect the unique circumstances in which they operate.

Points-based System

Other changes I am making to the Immigration Rules today implement recommendations made by the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to change tier 1 and tier 2 of the points-based system.

The points-based system continues to provide a flexible means to better identify and attract those migrants who have the most to contribute to the UK, while enforcing our effective border controls against those with less to offer. Tier 1 is for the most highly skilled workers, and tier 2 for other skilled workers who have a job offer from a UK employer licensed to sponsor migrants.

The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) provides the Government with independent, evidence-based advice on the economic case for managed migration. The MAC published its recommendations for tier 2 on 19 August 2009, and its recommendations for tier 1 on 4 December 2009. In arriving at them, it considered evidence from hundreds of organisations. The Government have also engaged with a wide-range of employers, trade unions and other organisations to ensure that the changes we make meet their needs and control migration in the best interests of the UK as a whole.

I can announce today that the Government are accepting all but two of the MAC's recommended changes to tier 1. The statement of changes to the Immigration Rules laid before the House today includes new points tables for both tiers, a simpler route for very highly skilled workers without master's degrees, greater flexibility for short-term transfers by multinational companies, and more protection against such transfers being used to nil long-term vacancies that should go to resident workers.

We have disagreed with the Committee in the awarding of points for professional qualifications held in addition to academic qualifications. We consider the approach would be complex, confusing for applicants and difficult to administer, and that operationally it would be very difficult to assess which combinations should attract particular points. So the Government have not accepted the recommendation at this time.

Further, the MAC recommended that the Government commissions detailed analysis of the economic returns to studying at particular institutions and for particular degree subjects. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has already commissioned research which will shed more light on international students' experience of the post-study work route, the jobs they take on and whether or not the availability of post-study leave to remain was decisive in them choosing to study in the UK. The Government have therefore decided that any further consideration of this recommendation should await the outcome of that research.

The UK Border Agency is also publishing a statement of policy for sponsors to ensure they have as much detail as possible about the Government's response to the MAC's recommendations, including those which do not require legislative action to implement.

Today's rules changes also make relatively minor changes to other parts of the points-based system. Under tier 4, we are making a number of changes that will support the introduction of the new highly trusted sponsor category from 6 April. We are also amending the rules to permit sponsored researchers, who are part-way through research projects at our higher education institutions, to make an application to extend their leave under the Government authorised exchange sub-category of tier 5.

ESOL/Knowledge of Life

We are also making some changes to the requirements concerning English language qualifications for migrants seeking indefinite leave to remain in the UK. It is important that immigrants seeking permanent residence in the UK have some understanding of one of the native languages of this country (English, Welsh or Scottish Gaelic) and of life in the United Kingdom. This will help to ensure that they integrate more easily into the British way of life.

I have today laid changes to the Immigration Rules which will ensure that all applicants relying on qualifications in English for speakers of other languages will study at accredited colleges; ensuring the quality of provision and preventing the possibilities of abuse of the provisions and exploitation of migrants. I have also clarified the progression which migrants are required to demonstrate before applying for permanent residence. Additional technical changes bring the rules into line with current terminology for the relevant qualifications.

Equivalent amendments are also being made to the regulations governing applications for naturalisation as British citizens.

Protection/Asylum Rules

We are also making some relatively minor changes to the Immigration Rules on asylum in order to clarify existing practice and procedure in the UK. These changes will have the effect of preventing asylum applicants from claiming humanitarian protection where there are serious reasons for considering that they have engaged in undesirable behaviour as set out in the rules.

We have also clarified interview procedures for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and have removed an unnecessary requirement for an asylum seeker to be asked to sign the interview record after their asylum interview to verify its contents. We have done this because we are satisfied that there are other procedures in place to safeguard the process.

Tier 5 Youth Mobility Scheme

I am pleased to announce that we will be adding Monaco to the youth mobility scheme.

Retention and Disclosure of Records (Independent Review)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): I am today publishing the report of the Independent Adviser for Criminality Information Management, Mrs. Sunita Mason, into the arrangements for retaining and disclosing records on the police national computer (PNC), together with the Government's response. I am placing copies in the Libraries of both Houses and in the Vote Office.

I welcome Mrs. Mason's helpful report and I accept the principles behind all her recommendations, although in some cases we will need to think further about how they should be delivered.

In looking at retention Mrs. Mason had regard to the recent Court of Appeal judgment in the "Five Constables Case" and in the light of the findings has recommended that the current retention arrangements should continue. We agree with that view.

On disclosure of records, while Mrs. Mason considers that the current arrangements for sending information to the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) should be maintained, she is not persuaded that employers always need to see old and minor records. She suggests that some rules are developed to filter out such cases and that a non-statutory panel be established to provide Ministers with further advice in this area. This impacts on the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (ROA) and cannot be considered in isolation from that legislation.

Mrs. Mason also recommends wider reform of the ROA. The Government agree that the Act needs to be looked at afresh to see what might best be considered in today's context, and that work should include public consultation, before moving to introduce any reforming legislation.

The other major recommendation in the review is that further work should be done around the disclosure of soft intelligence as part of enhanced criminal record checks. Mrs. Mason is concerned that soft intelligence is disclosed too routinely in such circumstances and wonders whether the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) disclosure should be limited to conviction data. This is a complex area, but once again I am anxious to ensure that the disclosure process is proportionate and I will be asking officials to look at this further.

JUSTICE

HM Courts Service Estates

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The Government are committed to ensuring that everyone has access to justice and that justice is provided locally. We need to ensure that we have a modern court estate that is properly aligned to where services are needed, that the estate is efficiently utilised and that courts have the necessary facilities for victims and witnesses and to allow proper access for court users with disabilities. On 13 October I announced full public consultations on the closure of a number of under-used courts.

The Government must always look to ensure there is an effective and efficient system to deliver justice so that we can continue to provide these vital public services at a level that offers real value for money for the taxpayer. Therefore, after careful consideration and following the public consultations, I am today announcing the closure of the following under-used courts:

Bourne Magistrates Court
Bridport Magistrates Court
Cheshunt Magistrates Court
Cullompton Magistrates Court
Dorking Magistrates Court
Eastleigh Magistrates Court
Gainsborough Magistrates Court
Havant Magistrates Court
Launceston Magistrates Court
Louth Magistrates Court
Mildenhall Magistrates Court
Minehead Magistrates Court
Sherborne Magistrates Court
Sleaford Magistrates Court
Stamford Magistrates Court
Wantage Magistrates Court
Wareham Magistrates Court
Wells Magistrates Court
Whitby Magistrates Court
Widnes Magistrates Court

I have not yet made a final decision on the proposed closure of Leigh County Court. I am still considering this matter, and will make an announcement in due course.

It is right that going to court should not place undue stress on the victims and witnesses of crime. Her Majesty's Courts Service has made significant improvements in the facilities for these court users over recent years. These improvements have helped to make giving evidence in court less stressful. We need to ensure that court buildings have suitable facilities for all court users. Many of the courts listed above are significantly under-utilised and do not have adequate facilities for victims and witnesses. In addition, a number of the buildings do not allow adequate access for disabled court users. Due to the low utilisation rates and in some courts, physical constraints, I do not believe it would provide good value for money to spend taxpayers' money to bring these buildings up to the required standard.

Magistrates courts developed in certain locations in the late 19th and early 20th centuries when areas of local government (then responsible for these courts) were much smaller and transport links were elementary. It is no longer necessary to have a court in every small town. This was recognised by many of the former Magistrates Courts Committees who made a very significant number of closures. Successive Governments have in recent decades had to undertake closure programmes. Since 1997, the Government, with this announcement, will have closed 171 courts, compared with 450 courts which were closed between 1979 to 1997. Our plans ensure that communities have access to good quality local courts within a reasonable travelling distance. We have considered the suitability and proximity of nearby courts which can meet the needs of the community. Most of the courts affected are not currently hearing cases. Therefore, cases in that area have been heard at a nearby court which has not caused significant disruption to court users. In many cases the better facilities available have improved their experience at court.

The consultation papers asked respondents to comment on any impacts that closure may have. In the light of the responses received, I am confident that the closures will not have a significant adverse impact on the provision of local justice. Indeed, as many respondents noted, these closures will assist the delivery of modern justice services and provide communities with better, more efficient facilities.

The responses to the consultation papers will be published on the Ministry of Justice website. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses, in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

PRIME MINISTER

Intelligence and Security Committee Annual Report (2009-2010)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have today laid before the House the Intelligence and Security Committee's Annual Report 2009-2010 (Cm 7844). This follows consultation with the Committee over matters that could not be published without prejudicing the work of the intelligence and security agencies.

I have also today laid before the House the Government's response to this report (Cm 7845). Copies of the report and the response have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

I am grateful to the Intelligence and Security Committee for its valuable work.

TRANSPORT

New Vans (Carbon Dioxide Regulation)

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement:

> The Government are today publishing a consultation document and accompanying impact assessment on the European Commission proposal for a regulation on the carbon dioxide emissions of new vans.
>
> We strongly support the principle of regulating van CO_2. This sector of road transport accounts for a growing proportion of transport emissions, and we estimate this regulation would save millions of tonnes of CO_2 emissions within the next decade. It would also improve the fuel economy of vehicles, thereby substantially reducing the running costs of those using vans as part of their business.
>
> Our priority for this regulation is to set an ambitious but realistic long-term framework for the reduction of emissions from this sector. The regulation must respect the realities of the sector to ensure that it does not reduce the diversity of the van market. In some areas we believe that the Commission is broadly right, for example in making separate provision for manufacturers selling below a certain volume of vans, and in encouraging new emission-lowering technologies. For other aspects we believe the approach should be modified.
>
> We are already taking an active part in discussions with the European Commission and other member states on this issue and outcome of the consultation will feed into our evolving position.
>
> A copy of the consultation document and accompanying impact assessment has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and will be available from: http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open.

EU Transport Council

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): The first Transport Council of the Spanish presidency was held in Brussels on 11 March. The United Kingdom was represented by Andy Lebrecht, Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU.

The Council agreed a general approach on a directive on transportable pressure equipment. The directive aims to revoke obsolete directives on pressure equipment and therefore remove conflicts between EU law and international rules on the transport of dangerous goods. It will align with the changes to the international agreements on the carriage of dangerous goods by rail and road (RID and ADR) which form the annexes of Directive 2009/68/EC. The United Kingdom supports this general approach.

There was a progress report on the proposal for a directive on aviation security charges. The Commission noted that the subject, and notably the question of who should pay for any more stringent security measures, was complex and that there were no obvious solutions. The first reading and vote from the European Parliament is scheduled to take place in April. Following that vote the presidency will examine the proposal and decide how it should be taken forward. The Council agreed to the presidency approach and took note of the progress report. The United Kingdom is content with this approach.

The Council reached a general approach on a regulation on investigation and prevention of accidents and incidents in civil aviation. The regulation seeks to facilitate the standardisation of legislation and co-operation in the investigation of accidents and incidents in civil aviation. A number of interventions were made by the majority of delegations (including the UK) in support of the presidency text, with comments being made on the independence of the network, the participation of the European Aviation Safety Agency in safety investigations, the role of judicial authorities, the protection of sensitive safety information and release of passenger lists following an accident. There was general consensus that these issues could be addressed as the European Parliament proceeds with its consideration of the proposal. The United Kingdom supports this general approach.

There was an update from the Commission on progress in the negotiations on a second stage EU-US Air Transport Agreement. The Commission noted the good progress made in widening the scope of the agreement to include environmental, labour and regulatory issues. While the US Congress was currently unwilling to relax investment and ownership in US airlines, it was felt that the US had conceded some useful points that would make the agreement mutually beneficial. The Commission raised the three outstanding issues of liberalisation, noise and commercial rights. Member states were broadly supportive of the Commission's approach and welcomed the recent progress on environmental matters. However, there were several interventions by delegations seeking to ensure that the final agreement strikes the right balance. The Council urged the Commission to continue negotiations on this basis.

There was a brief discussion on electric cars under AOB during which the United Kingdom reiterated that electric vehicles were only part of the solution to decarbonising transport and that any solution must be technologically neutral.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Discretionary Social Fund

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Helen Goodman): The Secretary of State will be making changes to the discretionary social fund in relation to direction 17, with effect from 1 April 2010.

With effect from 1 April a new benefit sanction for all first offences of benefit fraud, "One Strike", will be introduced along with a sanction for those jobseeker's allowance claimants who fail to attend their fortnightly reviews. Direction 17 of the discretionary social fund will be amended to take account of these new sanctions. This will ensure that all healthy childless people with no caring responsibilities who apply for a crisis loan, regardless of which benefit they receive, will not be able to counter a benefit sanction by applying for a crisis loan for living expenses. As now, they will be able to apply for a crisis loan to alleviate the consequences of a disaster or for the expenses for items for cooking or heating when there is a proven risk to their health or safety.

ICL Inquiry Report (Government Response)

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Yvette Cooper): I am today announcing the publication of the Government's response to the ICL Inquiry Report.

The Government's response (CM 7849) has been laid before Parliament and will be published later today. In publishing the response I would like to once again extend my condolences to the families and friends of those killed and injured in the factory explosion at ICL Plastics Ltd in Glasgow on 11 May 2004, and thank Lord Gill for his work and his considered recommendations following this tragic—and avoidable—event.

On 16 July, I announced the publication of Lord Gill's report into the underlying causes of the explosion at ICL Plastics, resulting from a leak of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). As part of his report, Lord Gill recommended a four-phase action plan to secure the safe operation of small bulk LPG installations. The plan consisted of:

- a systematic replacement of buried metallic service pipes with polyethylene pipes and inspection of buildings with an LPG supply;
- the establishment of a new safety regime for small bulk LPG installations including the introduction of an independent verification scheme;
- the continuing development of the safety regime with particular reference to polyethylene pipes; and
- improvements in knowledge and information sharing between regulators, and LPG suppliers and users.

On 14 September, I announced the publication of House's progress report which set out details of the programme to replace buried metallic pipework with polyethylene pipes, supported by an inspection campaign by HSE and local authority inspectors. This work is now well under way.

The progress report also announced the launch of a consultation exercise seeking stakeholder views on Lord Gill's remaining recommendations. We are grateful to those who responded to the consultation for their helpful comments. Having considered these responses and advice from the HSE board, the Government are now able to publish its full response to the ICL Inquiry.

The Government support the majority of Lord Gill's proposals for a new LPG safety regime including the introduction of installation records for LPG users; registration of LPG suppliers; clearer demarcation of responsibilities between LPG users and suppliers; the production of an asset register by suppliers; and improved guidance for users on meeting their legal obligations. HSE will consult with stakeholders further on the details of implementation.

The Government have decided to not take forward Lord Gill's proposals for an independent verification scheme or for independent audits of workplace risk assessments but will instead take steps to raise awareness among users of their responsibilities within the existing legislative framework, underpinned by appropriate enforcement activity. We believe that this approach will effectively deliver the outcomes that Lord Gill envisaged.

The Government acknowledge the need to ensure that the replacement polyethylene pipes themselves remain safe. We have therefore asked HSE to undertake any additional research needed into the safety of these pipes and to consult the LPG industry and pipe manufacturers on appropriate integrity tests.

Finally, the Government agree with Lord Gill that effective communication is vital to ensuring the continuing safety of small bulk LPG installations. The HSE will work with the LPG industry to develop clear and practical advice for LPG users regarding the fulfilment of their statutory duties.

I hope that the Government response goes some way to addressing the concerns of those have suffered as a result of this tragic event and reassures them that the Government are determined to ensure that similar events do not happen in the future.

An analysis of the responses to the preliminary consultation exercise, and other information used in developing the Government response, is now available on the HSE website at: http://www.hse.gov.uk/iclresponse

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Petitions

Monday 8 March 2010

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Car Scheme (Castle Point)

The Petition of the New Thundersley Afternoon Townswomen's Guild, the residents of Castle Point and others,

Declares that they object to the proposed reduction in funding for the Castle Point Car Scheme buses, to take effect from January 2010, that this reduction in funding will impact upon frail, elderly and infirm residents who rely on the buses as a means of independent living, and that public transport such as the Car Scheme offers a cheaper and greener alternative to private transport.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to press Castle Point Borough Council, and all Councillors, to reverse the decision to reduce funding for the Castle Point Car Scheme, and to increase support for local, greener transport schemes.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report*, 5 January 2010; Vol. 503, c. 142.]

[P000691]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The Department for Transport is supportive of schemes that improve access to key services, particularly for the most vulnerable people in our society. It is for this reason that we provide funding for an England-wide bus concession, which provides the opportunity for greater freedom and independence to around 11 million older and disabled people.

The Department provides over £1.3 billion in funding to local transport authorities in England (outside London) for investment in transport, in addition to revenue funding via the Department for Communities and Local Government's formula grant. Local authorities are best placed to know what is right for their local areas and it is for them to decide what their priorities should be, within the context of their statutory duties, and consulting with local communities and stakeholders.

Road repairs (Northamptonshire)

The Humble Petition of members of Rushden, Northamptonshire and the surrounding areas,

Sheweth,

That the roads of Rushden are in a poor state and are desperately in need of repair; there are many potholes and these cause a hazard to drivers and pedestrians; they are dangerous for the vulnerable who have to cross the roads and risk causing much damage to vehicles and costing constituents large amounts of money during the recession; the roads are in a very bad condition and cannot cope with the current local population; action needs to be taken if they are to be able to cope with the planned expansion of north Northamptonshire

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to direct Northamptonshire County Council to take remedial action to repair the roads, thereby improving the situation for local residents.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Peter Bone, Official Report*, 10 February 2010; Vol. 505, c. 1005.]

[P000731]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

Maintenance of the highways in Rushden is a matter for Northamptonshire County Council. It has a duty, under s41 of the Highways Act 1980, to maintain the highways in its charge. The Act does not specify standards to which highways should be maintained; this is a matter for each local highway authority, taking into account local priorities and resources. Local government democratic processes provide opportunities for the public to make their views known to the Council.

The Department for Transport encourages local highways authorities to develop Transport Asset Management Plans. These set out an inventory of the assets under the council's control, the condition they are in, the service levels the council intends the assets to deliver, and their plans to maintain the assets so as to deliver that service. The Department also encourages authorities to adopt the good practice set out in the UK Roads Liaison Group's code of practice for highways maintenance management, "Well-maintained Highways" (available from: www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org). The code is not mandatory, but together with complementary codes on highways structures and street lighting, provides good practice advice across the whole range of maintenance activities.

Over the decade 2001-02 to 2010-11, the Department has provided £82.829 million in capital funding for highways maintenance to Northamptonshire County Council, as part of the Local Transport Plan settlement. In addition, the Council can also apply Revenue Support Grant provision from the Department for Communities and Local Government, and their own resources such as Council Tax or Supported Borrowing, to the maintenance of their highways' assets.

Petitions

Tuesday 9 March 2010

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Station Footbridge Repair

The Petition of Residents of Watchet and others,

Declares that the footbridge at Watchet station is closed at present, because it is unsafe to use; declares that the closure is seriously inconvenient to residents and could endanger safety; further declares that there is a risk that the footbridge at Watchet station will be lost permanently, because insufficient funds are available for its safe repair and maintenance.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Government to take steps to assist and encourage the West Somerset district council to repair the footbridge as soon as possible.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Ian Liddell-Grainger, Official Report,* 24 February 2010; Vol. 506, c. 418 .]

[P000742]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

West Somerset district council has responsibility for this bridge and closed it following a safety inspection in October 2009.

I understand that the council has sought a suitable contractor to carry out repairs on the bridge to make it safe for public use. It sent out details of the work to seven potential contractors and received back only one bid which was beyond the budget available. Council officials have recently met with the bidder to seek to explore options to resolve the matter and expect to report back to the council in the next two months.

Traffic Calming (Irchester)

The Humble Petition of Residents of Irchester, Northamptonshire and the surrounding areas.

Sheweth that there is a problem with speeding traffic through Irchester, welcomes the efforts of local councillors, council officers and the police in devising road calming measures; that the Petitioners support the mini roundabout, the vehicle-activated signs, the police enforcement scheme and other measures; but that the Petitioners have reservations about the chicanes on the Wollaston Road; and notes that a survey of 543 people showed that the majority wanted revised traffic calming in Wollaston Road.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to request that Northamptonshire County Council in conjunction with the Borough Council of Wellingborough and Irchester Parish Council, review the chicanes in Wollaston Road to see whether alternative or revised traffic calming measures are necessary.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Peter Bone, Official Report,* 2 March 2010; Vol. 506, c. 917 .]

[P000747]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

Wollaston Road is a local road for which Northamptonshire County Council is responsible as local highway authority. It is for the Council to decide in consultation with the local community which measures are best suited to satisfy the requirements of local schemes.

The primary legislation governing traffic calming is contained in sections 90A to 90F of the Highways Act 1980 (as amended by the Transport Act 1981). The Highways (Road Humps) Regulations 1999 prescribe the dimensions of road humps, and the Highways (Traffic Calming) Regulations 1999 prescribe a list of traffic calming features.

The Department for Transport's technical guidance on traffic calming Local Transport Note (LTN): 1/07 Traffic Calming gives advice on the design and installation of all types of traffic calming.

Petitions

Thursday 11 March 2010

PRESENTED PETITIONS

Petitions presented to the House on Wednesday 10 March 2010 but not read on the Floor

Council Tax Collection

The Petition of Mr. Martin Burke of Elizabeth Regina Love,

Declares that if a Manchester City Council tax payer is late in paying an instalment they will often unexpectedly receive a court summons; that to many this is a shock and they think they will have to appear in court and that it is a threat of prison; that this reaction is quite regular; that the management of the council tax unit know about this reaction and expect it and have not taken steps to mitigate it, and play on it. Declares that this is tax collection by the use of scare tactics, and requests a stop be put to this abuse.

The petitioner requests that the House of Commons bear in mind in its law making the above, and that were the question put the House consent to the request(s) in this Mr. Burke's 7th petition first posted to the House on 29 December 2009.

And the Petitioner remains, etc.

[P000755]

Health at Bus Stations

The Petition of Mr. Martin Burke of Elizabeth Regina Love,

Declares that day in day out for years men and women from the bus companies have worked in Piccadilly bus station in Manchester exposed to the exhaust fumes of numerous heavy diesel engines with no breathing protection, and that passengers, passersby and local shops are also exposed to these fumes. Requests that no bus be allowed to wait with engines running in Piccadilly bus station and in all other bus stations in the country, and that busses be only allowed to stop there for passengers to alight and board.

The petitioner requests that the House of Commons bear in mind in its law making the above, and that were the question put the House consent to the request(s) in this Mr. Burke's 13th petition first posted to the House on 29 December 2009.

And the Petitioner remains, etc.

[P000758]

Jobseekers Agreements Threats

The Petition of Mr. Martin Burke of Elizabeth Regina Love,

Declares that if a person claiming unemployment benefit does not agree 3 types of jobs that you will apply for as part of a jobseekers agreement acceptable to the interviewer and against their wishes, then Jobseekers Allowance will be suspended even if there is little enough money for food; and declares that this a blackmail. Declares that the Department of Work and Pensions and Jobcentre Plus is an organisation that, if a person is 5 minutes late due to the traffic for a meeting and refused entry, is able and willing to and does cut a person's benefit by half so that there is £32.30 a week to live on for the next two weeks, with no information with regard to the circumstances or the consequences. And further declares that a successful appeal 3 months later and 6 months after the event is the return of wrongfully taken money. Declares also that this organisation will also similarly stop two weeks benefit on the basis of a doubt. The petitioner requests a stop be put to these practices and they be outlawed.

The petitioner requests that the House of Commons bear in mind in its law making the above, and that were the question put the House consent to the request(s) in this Mr. Burke's 8th petition first posted to the House on 29 December 2009.

And the Petitioner remains, etc.

[P000756]

MPs' Expenses

The Petition of Mr. Martin Burke of Elizabeth Regina Love,

Declares that to effectively represent their constituents Members of Parliament require independence of mind and a good night's sleep. Further declares that it is unlikely that for example the people of Glasgow would want their representatives to travel to Parliament sleeping on the seats and floors of third class compartments as did James Maxton, who then lived miles away in Putney. And further declares that constituents wish their Members of Parliament to be in good condition to represent them.

Declares that while responsibility for judgements with regard to expenses and other matters may be delegated, those to whom it is delegated remain accountable to Members of Parliament, and Members of Parliament remain responsible and accountable for those judgements. The petitioner requests that the House turn its mind to the challenges facing the country, such as the rise in unemployment and restlessness when there is so much work that needs to be done.

The petitioner requests that the House of Commons bear in mind in its law making the above, and that were the question put the House consent to the request(s) in this Mr. Burke's 11th petition first posted to the House on 29 December 2009.

And the Petitioner remains, etc.

[P000764]

New Copyright Library

The Petition of Mr. Martin Burke of Elizabeth Regina Love,

Declares that there are 6 Legal Deposit or "Copyright" Libraries in the British Isles, in Edinburgh, Dublin, Cardiff, Oxford, Cambridge and London. Declares that the universities in the North of England could do with a copyright library closer than these. Declares that Mr. Burke's preference about location is Manchester next to Piccadilly Railway Station, however Mr. Burke was born in Manchester and other possible locations need to be considered. The petitioner requests that a 7th copyright library be established.

The petitioner requests that the House of Commons bear in mind in its law making the above, and that were the question put the House consent to the request(s) in this Mr. Burke's 12th petition first posted to the House on 29 December 2009.

And the Petitioner remains, etc.

[P000759]

Prison Transport as a Punishment

The Petition of Mr. Martin Burke of Elizabeth Regina Love,

Declares that on 25 October 2007 in committee on the Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill the member for Harborough (Mr. Garnier) stated that young offenders convicted of offences or on remand in custody in courts in the east of England are having to be taken in a sweat box hundreds of miles overnight and brought back to court the following day. On some occasions, they do not arrive at their overnight accommodation until well after 9 o'clock. Declares that this is not a punishment awarded by the Courts. The petitioner asks if this is still happening and if it is that a stop be put to it.

The petitioner requests that the House of Commons bear in mind in its law making the above, and that were the question put the House consent to the request(s) in this Mr Burke's 9th petition first posted to the House on 29 December 2009.

And the Petitioner remains, etc.

[P000765]

Safety of the Armed Forces (2)

The Petition of Mr. Martin Burke of Elizabeth Regina Love,

Declares that the member for Airdrie and Shotts (Rt. Hon Dr John Reid MP) has replied to the Petitioner about Mr. Burke's Petition "Safety of the Armed Forces" to the effect that were it not for being a former Government Minister, which included being recently Home Secretary and Secretary of State for Defence, he would have signed the Petition which was presented on 14 December 2009, in which Mr. Burke drew attention to the statement of Sir Richard Mottram that that he had influence, or knew those who had influence to avert a threat to the Armed Forces; that they were willing and able to not only not intervene but initiate a threat; and that Dr. Reid supports the Petition, and that a link to that Petition is at: www.eheartr.com.

The Petitioner requests that the House of Commons note Dr. Reid's reply: and once again requests that in order to begin the process of restoring trust in the 3 United Kingdom Intelligence Agencies that Members of the House of Commons, who are elected and serve to lead this country, form an oversight committee to conduct regular hearings with the heads of these 3 Intelligence Agencies in public.

The petitioner requests that the House of Commons bear in mind in its law making the above, and that were the question put the House consent to the request(s) in this Mr. Burke's 5th petition first posted to the House on 29 December 2009.

And the Petitioner remains, etc.

[P000754]

Smoking

The Petition of Mr. Martin Burke of Elizabeth Regina Love,

Declares that one fine cold still winter morning in Manchester Mr. Burke was stood on the pavement and a passerby walked past smoking a cigarette; noted that against the clear crystal blue sky the smoke from the cigarette formed a ball around the person as if their head were in a fishbowl of smoke which moved with them; further notes that this smoke was also through the bloodstream on the inside of their head and that this is equivalent to exposing very sensitive parts of the brain to a car exhaust. The petitioner requests that the cigarette factories be closed down.

The petitioner requests that the House of Commons bear in mind in its law making the above, and that were the question put the House consent to the request(s) in this Mr. Burke's 14th petition first posted to the House on 29 December 2009.

And the Petitioner remains, etc.

[P000757]

The BBC

The Petition of Mr. Martin Burke of Elizabeth Regina Love,

Declares that on 19 May 2009 the day before his first petition was presented Mr. Burke was waiting in the Central Lobby waiting to meet his Member of Parliament when he observed several senior members of the House of Commons being selected and organised by a BBC producer to communicate by television and radio to the public about the change of Speaker. Further declares that the following day just before Mr. Burke's petition was presented members of the House of Commons voted on the funding of the BBC. The petitioner requests that control of access to the public by the BBC of members of the House of Commons be removed and that the House sets up its own independently employed and trained broadcasting unit.

The petitioner requests that the House of Commons bear in mind in its law making the above, and that were the question put the House consent to the request(s) in this Mr. Burke's 10th petition first posted to the House on 29 December 2009.

And the Petitioner remains, etc.

[P000763]

The House of Lords and A Fully Elected Second Chamber

The Petition of Mr. Martin Burke of Elizabeth Regina Love,

Declares that it is a peculiar paradox that members of an unelected House of Lords have ensured the survival of a fully elected House of Commons. The petitioner requests that the House of Commons create from itself a new fully elected 2nd chamber and that membership of the House of Lords be opened to persons from the Commonwealth of Nations.

The petitioner requests that the House of Commons bear in mind in its law making the above, and that were the question put the House consent to the request(s) in this Mr. Burke's 4th petition first emailed to the House on 12 February 2010.

And the Petitioner remains, etc.

[P000760]

The North Korean People

The Petition of Mr. Martin Burke of Elizabeth Regina Love,

Declares that during the 2006 North Korea nuclear crisis in a United Nations Security Council meeting the United States' ambassador to the United Nations Ambassador Bolton pointed out that North Koreans have below average height compared to their neighbours in South Korea, and further declares that that the petitioner quickly pursued the point of food relief, as well as and hopefully instead of sanctions, together with other points in his communications in October and November 2006. Notes and regrets that the 6 party talks have not lead yet to a successful outcome.

Declares that the welfare of the North Korean people is still a concern and as a mark of that concern requests that the House receive regular reports on the welfare of the North Korean people.

The petitioner requests that the House of Commons bear in mind in its law making the above, and that were the question put the House consent to the request(s) in this Mr. Burke's 16th petition first posted to the House on 29 December 2009.

And the Petitioner remains, etc.

[P000761]

The Right to Petition the House

The Petition of Mr. Martin Burke of Elizabeth Regina Love,

Declares that he would like to thank the Speakers Lord Martin and Mr. Bercow and members of the House for maintaining the right to petition the House with his first and subsequent petitions. The petitioner requests a vote of thanks to both Speakers.

The petitioner requests that the House of Commons bear in mind in its law making the above, and that were the question put the House consent to the request(s) in this Mr. Burke's 15th petition first posted to the House on 29 December 2009.

And the Petitioner remains, etc.

[P000762]

Petition

Monday 15 March 2010

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Extra gritting (NHS Savings)

The Petition of People of Croydon,

Declares that there are huge increases in visits to A & E at Mayday after falls on treacherous ice on Croydon's roads and pavements and that it would be worthwhile investing in extra gritting such that less public money is spent caring for the injured or lost from reduced income tax and national insurance payments from those kept off work through injury.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take steps to encourage the NHS and local Councils to work together to identify funds for extra gritting of pavements and roads so as to reduce costly and painful accidents.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 1 March 2010; Vol. 506, c. 772 .]

[P000744]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

Provision of a winter service on the roads in Croydon is a matter for the London Borough of Croydon, within the Mayor's overall transport strategy. It has a duty, under s41 of the Highways Act 1980, to maintain the highways in its charge; and this includes a specific requirement to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice.

The Department for Transport encourages local highways authorities to adopt the good practice set out in the UK Roads Liaison Group's code of practice for highways maintenance management, Well-maintained Highways (available from: www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org). This includes a section on winter service, which has been recently updated to take account of the review which the UKRLG undertook in response to the severe weather of February 2009. The Code of Practice urges local highway authorities to produce, and formally approve and adopt, policies and priorities for winter service. These should be coherent with wider objectives for transport, integration, accessibility and network management, including strategies for public transport, walking and cycling, as well as the wider strategic objectives of the authority.

The Government welcome the initiative between Durham County Council and the NHS County Durham Primary Care Trust for the provision of £1 million over two years to provide additional winter maintenance budgetary provision. The PCT funding stream is being made available in both 2009-10 and 2010-11 to cover the revenue and capital costs of additional routes; and has been allocated to the provision of additional trailer gritters, footway snow clearance plant and additional salt boxes.

Petitions

Tuesday 16 March 2010

PRESENTED PETITIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning and Development (Essex)

The Petition of Brian Keeler, the residents of Castle Point and others,

Declares that they object to the proposed development of the area between Nos. 18 to 32 High Road, Benfleet to construct a building providing 5 Retail Units at Ground Level, 22 Parking Spaces, 2 Offices, plus 12 x 2 bed flats and 2 x 1 bed flats at 1st and 2nd floor levels; that this development should be rejected because the proposed, much larger building would dominate and overlook existing properties, bring unacceptable problems including inadequate parking, fails to show where access to and from the site parking area will be, bearing in mind an existing public parking area in Adelaide Gardens, vague refuse storage area, restricted sight lines for emerging traffic from St. Mary's Drive, reduction of the pavement, loss of light entering adjoining buildings and relocation of the heritage telephone kiosk and post box; further declares that this development would further spoil the Conservation Area and create unacceptable stress on the existing infrastructure, including roads, schools, rail, doctors, dentists, etc.; that for these and many other valid planning reasons this application should be rejected by the local Councillors, elected to represent their constituents, and that given the importance to the wider community of protecting this unique Conservation Area, unelected and unaccountable officers must properly and widely consult the public before permitting such developments.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to press Castle Point Borough Council, and all Councillors, to reject this planning application and to substantially protect the unique St Mary's Conservation area

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 2 February 2010; Vol. 505, c. 274.]

[P000726]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is aware that a planning application has been submitted to Castle Point Borough Council in respect of the above development. He is advised that the planning application was registered on 24 December 2009 and is currently expected to go before the Planning Committee to determine whether approval should be granted or not on the 27 May 2010.

The determination of planning applications is primarily the responsibility of the Borough Council as local planning authority, and the Secretary of State cannot comment on the merits or otherwise of any application, or prospective application.

Decisions on planning applications are required to be in accordance with the adopted development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Government's statements of national planning policy are material considerations which must be taken into account, where relevant, in planning decisions, but it is the responsibility of the local planning authority to identify and weigh up all the different issues, in the context of the specific local circumstances, having regard to the views of local residents and other interested parties.

The Secretary of State may decide to call in an application for his own determination where he considers that it raises issues of more than local importance, but his policy is to be very selective about this. As it is possible that the proposal may, at some future date, come within his jurisdiction, it would be inappropriate to comment on the matter raised in the petition.

Planning and Development (Essex)

The Petition of residents of Stanway Road and surrounding areas,

Declares that we are strongly opposed to the proposed plans application CPT/2/10/FUL to further extend the boundary fencing and gates of the business operating at 77 Stanway Road and believe that if the council pass these plans it will further spoil the appearance of the area, will result in more commercial traffic and street parking in this area, more noise and disturbance to us and will allow the business at 77 to further dominate the area.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Government to encourage Castle Point Borough Councillors, Essex County Councillors and the Highways Authority, to take urgent and tough action to immediately end the improper land grabbing and fencing off of highway land in this otherwise quiet and respectable residential area and take appropriate action to force the business back to the proper boundaries for this site, in the wider public interest.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 9 February 2010; Vol. 505, c. 884.]

[P000734]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is aware that a planning application has been submitted to Castle Point borough council in respect of the above development. He has been advised that planning application was refused by the council's planning committee on 2 March 2010.

Petitions

Thursday 18 March 2010

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Second Entrance to Higham Ferrers College

The Humble Petition of residents of Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire and the surrounding areas,

Sheweth,

that there is a massive increase in the volume of pedestrian and vehicular traffic using the Queensway, the one and only access to the Ferrers Specialist Art College, Higham Ferrers; that these circumstances have resulted in significant damage to the grass verges and pathways of the nearby residential estate; and that the Petitioners believe that a secondary entrance to the College via the A6 bypass would considerably alleviate many of the current problems.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to request that Northamptonshire County Council in conjunction with East Northamptonshire District Council and Higham Ferrers Parish council investigates the current problems and introduces a proposal for a second entrance to the Higham Ferrers Specialist Art College.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Peter Bone, Official Report,* 9 March 2010; Vol. 507, c. 271.]

[P000749]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

Improvements to the local road infrastructure in the Higham Ferrers area are primarily the responsibility of the local highway authority, in this case Northamptonshire County Council, and thus the Secretary of State would not normally comment on the condition of the local highway or proposals for its improvement.

The Government Office for the East Midlands understands that the Ferrers Specialist Arts College was granted planning permission by East Northamptonshire Council for a new access off the A6 in July 2009. Although the applicant has entered into a Section 278 agreement with the County Council to construct the new access, progress has for the moment halted due to a Judicial Review being brought by a third party. In the light of this it would not be appropriate to comment further on the issue and the petitioners would be advised to continue to pursue their concerns directly with the local authorities concerned.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bridleways (Canvey Island)

The Petition of Paula Holt and others,

Declares that the horse riding community of Castle Point, and Canvey Island in particular, is desperate for safe places to ride in the borough, notes that riding at Waterside Farm, the Northwick Road fields and the sea wall between Haven Road and Northwick Road are now all closed to horse riders because of barriers put up by the council to prevent motorbike riders, but which only actually stop horse riders; further notes that we need more bridleways across the whole borough and that this activity provides exercise and much pleasure for all age groups and is traditional within the borough.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to encourage Essex County Council and Castle Point Borough Council to review bridleway provision in the borough and to ensure that traditional bridleways are maintained, and new and safe bridleways are provided.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 9 June 2009; Vol. 493, c. 765.]

[P000380]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

The Government are committed to improving the off-road riding network and believe that horse riding makes a significant economic and social contribution to many communities. DEFRA is aware that the current rights of way network does not serve the needs of horse riders particularly well and encourages local highway authorities to take a strategic view of their public rights of way network with the aim of reflecting modern patterns of demand and land use and providing better for the needs of users.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 required local highway authorities to prepare Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIPs), setting out how they intend to achieve the Government's aims. ROWIPs are prime means by which local highway authorities identify the changes and improvements that need to be made in order to meet the Government's aim of better provision for equestrians as well as walkers, cyclists, and people with mobility problems.

Most authorities have now prepared a ROWIP and the evidence we have received so far indicates that local highway authorities have taken account of the needs of horse riders. However, ROWIPs are strategic and should not be prescriptive about the means by which rights of way are to be established. We would expect local authorities to look at a range of options for implementation. Essex County Council's ROWIP sets out that as part of their theme of making a more continuous network, particular focus will be on the provision of bridleways.

Local Highway authorities have a duty to assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoy public rights of way. This means they are obliged by law to keep rights of way open and useable. There are various provisions that assist in carrying out this duty.

Local Highway authorities also have a duty to consult Local Access Forums which can have a significant input into planned improvements. Local Access Forums are statutory bodies and have representatives from user organisations and landowners. The Forums are an ideal opportunity for horse riding groups to feed in their comments and proposals for improving the bridleway network.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 8 March 2010

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Official Engagements

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Prime Minister what his official engagements are in March 2010. [321293]

The Prime Minister: My official spokesman announces my forthcoming official engagements each day.

On 6 March, I visited Helmand where I was briefed by our military and civilian leaders, and by Afghan Commanders, on the latest developments on the ground, in particular on Operation Moshtarak, and on the challenges faced by our forces throughout Helmand, especially in Sangin.

I was updated on ISAF plans to reorganise responsibilities and command and control in Southern Afghanistan, as the operational situation evolves after Operation Moshtarak and the deployment of additional US forces. Key to this will be building on the increasingly successful partnering of the Afghan security forces, and achieving the right ratios of security forces (international and Afghan) to the civilian population to enable General McChrystal's counter-insurgency approach. And although final decisions have yet to be taken it is likely UK forces will increasingly concentrate in central Helmand.

I was updated on ongoing stabilisation efforts: provision of jobs on projects, efforts to strengthen the local economy, and helping farmers cultivate a range of legal crops rather than poppy. 1,000 Afghan civil order police are now being deployed into the areas cleared in Operation Moshtarak. Over time they will be replaced by 1,000 regular Afghan police. To support this the UK are deploying an additional eight police mentoring teams, additional police advisers for the NATO training mission and the EU police mission, and additional support for the police training centre, a total of over 150 extra personnel.

I was updated on progress with recruiting in the Afghan army, which has increased sevenfold since the end of 2009, with 500 more Afghan army in Helmand since December. Embedded partnering between British forces and the Afghan army is already generating positive results: for example, UK battlegroups report a 30 per cent. improvement in intelligence collection, including on the location of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), after the introduction of joint patrolling with Afghan forces.

I was updated on progress in equipment including faster delivery of Vallon IED detectors towards our target of deploying over 6,500 by July, together with additional sets of ground penetrating radar. Specialised Talisman route-clearance vehicles and equipment will deploy in the next two months. The Ministry of Defence is also committing a further £18 million over the next two years to strengthen pre-deployment training on counter-IED techniques, in addition to the significant investment announced in December.

I was updated on the increased number of hours our Chinook and Apache helicopters can fly each month; the successful introduction of Merlin helicopters; the deployment of Czech helicopters made possible by the British helicopter fund initiative; and the recent increases of Hermes 450 unmanned aerial vehicles and options for accelerating the planned increase of Predator/Reaper unmanned aerial vehicles.

Finally, I visited engineers responsible for sustaining the fleet of protected mobility vehicles including Mastiff and Ridgeback vehicles—offering world-leading protection against IED strikes. Over 100 more of those vehicles have been deployed since last summer. I also inspected the newly introduced Husky utility vehicle, 100 of which are in transit to Afghanistan. I was able to update our forces on the Ministry of Defence's plans for a new light protected patrol vehicle, with Treasury approval of the first 200 vehicles as an urgent operational requirement. The Ministry of Defence judge that this meets the requirement in Afghanistan and will make announcements on further tranches in due course, as is standard practice with major equipment procurements.

I look forward in the coming weeks to discussing the position in Afghanistan with the King of Jordan and Prime Minister Erdogan when they visit London. I also plan to attend the European Council meeting in Brussels on 25 to 26 March.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what information technology projects initiated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were cancelled prior to completion in the last 12 months; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [320422]

Paul Goggins: During the last 12 months no information technology projects initiated by the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) or its agencies have been cancelled prior to completion.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was paid in reimbursable expenses to special advisers in his Department in each of the last five years. [320484]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows how much the Northern Ireland Office, including its arms-length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and NDPBs, paid in reimbursable expenses to special advisers in each of the last five years:

	£
2004-05	11,579.84
2005-06	9,182.01
2006-07	1,837.74
2007-08	1,068.97
2008-09	1,457.49

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

14 Tothill Street

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 329W, on 14 Tothill Street, how much has been spent in total to date, including the House of Commons contribution and the House of Lords contribution to the Commission on *(a)* rent, *(b)* refurbishment, *(c)* business rates and *(d)* utilities in respect of the unoccupied premises at 14 Tothill Street. [319800]

Nick Harvey: The expenditure to the end January 2010 on the unoccupied premises has been:

			£000
Account	*Commons*	*Lords*	*Total*
Rent	4,592	2,256	6,848
Refurbishment	1,598	2,293	3,891

These figures exclude costs incurred by the House of Lords since taking up occupancy on 1 September 2009. Business rates and utility costs, of £340,000 and £72,000 respectively, have also been incurred since the building became partially occupied. These are shared between the Commons (60 per cent.) and Lords (40 per cent.).

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Syms: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood of 3 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 411W, on illegal immigrants, how many House of Commons staff have been appointed and later discovered to be illegal immigrants since 2005. [320492]

Nick Harvey: Since 2005, one employee of the House of Commons has been found to be not eligible to work in the UK. This was due to a change in circumstances that occurred after the employment began.

Members: Allowances

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 38W, on Members: allowances, how much has been spent under each budgetary heading referred to in the answer. [319926][1]

Nick Harvey: The costs to date, inclusive of VAT, are as follows:

	£
Sir Thomas Legg's review	
Work commissioned	870,784
Staff costs	306,534
Office supplies	5,889
Total	1,183,207

	£
Sir Paul Kennedy's work	
Work commissioned	18,327
Travel	643
Office Supplies	180
Total	19,150

Older Workers

Mr. Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what guidance the House authorities have issued on arrangements to enable staff of the House, excluding its Officers, who wish to continue to work beyond the age of 65 years to do so; and if he will make a statement. [320991]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons service currently has a "no retirement age" policy for most of its staff. This will be extended to include all staff from 1 April 2010 when the retirement age of 65 for the senior commons structure is removed.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many House of Commons staff, excluding Officers of the House, there are over the age of 65 years; and if he will make a statement. [320992]

Nick Harvey: 64 members of staff, excluding Officers of the House (staff in pay band A and above), are over the age of 65.

Parliament: Internet

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission with reference to the answer of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 747-8W, on standing committees: internet, what progress the Commission has made on placing on Parliament's website the transcripts of Standing Committee debates held prior to 1997; and if he will make a statement. [320641]

Nick Harvey: Standing Committee debates held prior to 1997 have been digitised (421 volumes covering the period 1919 to 2004-05) and have now gone through the necessary quality assurance procedures. These data, along with many other related stand-alone sites will be brought into the main site over the next few months as part of the implementation of a new, improved content management system.

Trade Unions

Mr. Syms: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many days staff of the House of Commons Service spent on trade union activity in the latest year for which figures are available; and what recent estimate has been made of the annual cost to the public purse of such activity. [320671]

Nick Harvey: A record of the number of days that staff of the House of Commons Service spent on trade union activity is not maintained centrally.

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[1] [*Official Report, 11 March 2010, Vol. 507, c. 11-12MC.*]

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for which Google Adword online advertising keywords his Department and its agencies have paid in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [315466]

Dan Norris: The Department has spent £156,000 on Google Adwords in the last 12 months. A list of the keywords used has been placed in the House Library. We are unable to disclose the individual cost against specific keywords as this information is commercial in confidence.

Detailed spend on advertising by DEFRA agencies is not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Land: Forestry

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has made a recent estimate of the amount of land available for afforestation. [320744]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We have not made any recent estimates of the amount of land available for afforestation. The Forestry Commission is currently working with DEFRA and Natural England to develop a high-level spatial framework to guide where woodland creation would best deliver a range of benefits. This work is likely to be completed over the coming year.

Land: Set-aside Schemes

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of former set-aside land *(a)* has gone back into agricultural production since the abolition of the set-aside scheme in 2008 and *(b)* remains as fallow land. [321178]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The June Agricultural Survey only records aggregate areas and does not collect information on individual fields. Hence, it is not possible to say how much of the set-aside land recorded in 2007 was located on fields that remained fallow in subsequent years. Nor is it possible to say how much of the former set-aside land is now cropped. However, in 2009 there were 254,000 hectares of uncropped land in the UK, which is equivalent to 58 per cent. of the 2007 set-aside area.

Quarries: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which extraction quarries are currently licensed in Nottinghamshire; and which of them have received aggregate levy sustainability fund Objective 5 money for community projects. [321070]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There are currently 31 aggregates extraction sites in Nottinghamshire, of which 19 are active (Abbey Quarry, Bellmoor; Besthorpe; Bestwood 2; Burntstump; Carlton Forest; East Leake; Finningley; Girton; Langford Lowfields; Linby; Lound/Blaco Hill; Misson Bawtry Road; Misson Newington; Misson West; Nether Langwith; Ratcher Hill; Rufford; Scrooby; and, Scrooby Top) and 12 that are currently inactive (Carlton in Lindrick; Cromwell; Holme Pierrepont; Hoveringham; Mattersey (two sites); Rampton; Serlby; Sturton le Steeple; Styrrup; Warsop; and, Yellowstone).

None of the sites has received funding directly from the communities theme ("Objective 5")—aggregate levy sustainably fund funding is directed, via Nottinghamshire county council, to community projects.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many current aggregate levy sustainability fund Objective 5 projects in Nottinghamshire are taking place at sites within one kilometre of a quarry. [321071]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Nottinghamshire county council has targeted communities "within 2 km of mineral extraction sites and any known extraction routes" for its funding from the communities theme ("Objective 5") of the aggregate levy sustainability fund.

Of the current (2009-10) projects, three are directly associated with former aggregates workings within this limit, and the remaining 15 fall within defined target areas of active and spent quarries and any known extraction routes.

Renewable Energy: Fuel Oil

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to increase regeneration capacity for waste oils; and if he will make a statement. [319846]

Dan Norris: DEFRA's policies on waste oils are set out in Waste Strategy for England 2007. We are currently considering the responses to the stage one consultation on the transposition of the revised Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), including the provisions in article 21 on waste oils.

Special Protection Areas

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 831W, on Special Protection Areas: cats, what guidance the European Commission has provided on the *(a)* implementation of the European Habitats Directive and *(b)* appropriateness of banning domestic cats and dogs in housing developments close to areas with Special Protection status. [319799]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The European Commission has produced a range of guidance on specific articles of the Habitats Directive which is available on its website. I am not aware that any of this guidance gives specific advice on the appropriateness of banning domestic pets close to Special Protection Areas.

Tuna: Conservation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the Government decided not to sign up to the EU protocol on sustainable fishing of tuna. [319210]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There is no official EU protocol on sustainable fishing of tuna. However, the UK plays a full part in tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations to work towards sustainable management of tuna stocks and, in the case of Atlantic bluefin tuna, has been a leading voice within the EU in calling for additional measures through the listing on Appendix I on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in order to protect this stock.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Syms: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 103W, on departmental marketing, how much her Department and agencies have spent on advertising, marketing, public relations and publicity in relation to the *(a)* Real Help Now and *(b)* Building Britain's Future themed campaign to date. [320453]

Barbara Keeley: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons incurred no cost on advertising, marketing, public relations and publicity in relation to *(a)* Real Help Now and *(b)* Building Britain's Future themed campaigns to date.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department's buildings in each year since 2005. [320569]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office did not centrally record its carbon emissions before the current financial year. This information is, however, now being recorded and will be reported in our forthcoming annual report.

Departmental Energy

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps his Department plans to take to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010. [319099]

Ann McKechin: As part of the Scotland Office's continuing efforts to reduce energy consumption staff are reminded regularly to turn off computers, monitors and other electrical equipment, unplug mobile phone chargers and switch off lights when rooms are not in use. As the 2010 Earth Hour event is on the evening of Saturday 27 March, our buildings are likely to be unoccupied. Security guards will ensure that no inessential lights are left on.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what information technology projects initiated by his Department were cancelled prior to completion in the last 12 months; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [320435]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office shares an information technology system (SCOTS) with the Scottish Executive, which is responsible for the development, administration and maintenance of the system; consequently, the Office does not directly undertake IT projects.

Departmental Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [320540]

Ann McKechin: No Ministers or civil servants received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months.

Trade Unions

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many days staff of his Department spent on trade union activity in the latest year for which figures are available; and what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of such activity. [320670]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office do not have any staff that spend time undertaking trade union activities.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy Supply

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the maximum transmission system demand was in each of the last 20 years. [320128]

Mr. Kidney: DECC's data for the maximum transmission system demand are contained in our report 'UK Energy Sector Indicators 2009: Supporting Indicators Dataset',

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/indicators/indicators.aspx

The following table shows the data for simultaneous maximum electricity load met (left axis) from 1985 to 2008.

Simultaneous maximum electricity load met, 1985 to 2008 (GW)

	GW simultaneous maximum load met, UK (left axis)
1985	53.00
	46.33
	52.831
	53.555
	53.414
1990	54.069
	54.472
	51.663
	54.848
	52.362
1995	55.611

Simultaneous maximum electricity load met, 1985 to 2008 (GW)

	GW simultaneous maximum load met, UK (left axis)
	56.815
	56.965
	56.312
	57.849
2000	58.452
	58.589
	61.717
	60.591
	61.013
	61.697
	59.071
	61.527
2008	60.289

Source:
DECC

Fossil Fuels

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of UK energy demand has been met from fossil fuel sources in each year since 2006. [321270]

Mr. Kidney: The volume and proportion of UK energy demand met from fossil fuel sources since 2006 is shown in the following table.

Million tonnes of oil equivalent

	2006		2007		2008	
	Volume	*Proportion (percentage)*	*Volume*	*Proportion (percentage)*	*Volume*	*Proportion (percentage)*
Coal	43.5	18.7	40.9	18.0	37.9	16.9
Petroleum	77.1	33.1	75.6	33.4	74.4	33.2
Natural gas	89.2	38.4	90.1	39.8	93.0	41.4
Total all fossil fuels	209.8	90.2	206.6	91.2	205.2	91.5

Mining: Coal

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* deep and *(b)* open-cast coal mines are operational; and what the annual output was of each such mine in each of the last five years. [320329]

Mr. Kidney: The following table lists deep and surface coal mines operational as at March 2010. Statistics on the output from such mines are provided by operators to the industry's licensing body, the Coal Authority, on a confidential basis and are not publicly available.

Mines	
Deep	
Aberpergwm Colliery	Neath Port Talbot
Blaentillery No. 2 Colliery	Torfaen
Cannop Drift Mine	Gloucestershire
Daw Mill Colliery	Warwickshire
Eckington Colliery	Derbyshire
Hatfield Colliery	Doncaster
Hay Royds Colliery	Kirklees
Kellingley Colliery	North Yorkshire
Maltby Colliery	Rotherham
Monument Colliery	Gloucestershire
Nant Hir No. 2 Colliery	Neath Port Talbot
Thoresby Colliery	Nottinghamshire
Unity Mine	Neath Port Talbot
Welbeck Colliery	Nottinghamshire
Surface	
Broken Cross	South Lanarkshire
Bwlch Ffos	Neath Port Talbot
Chalmerston	East Ayrshire
Cutacre	Bolton
Cwm Yr Onen Colliery Reclamation	Neath Port Talbot
East Pit	Neath Port Talbot
Engine	Derbyshire
Ffos-y-Fran	Merthyr Tydfil
Former Bowater Works	Derbyshire
Glenmuckloch	Dumfries/Galloway
Glentaggart	South Lanarkshire
Greenbank (St. Ninians)	Fife
Greenburn Project	East Ayrshire
House of Water	East Ayrshire
Lodge House	Derbyshire
Long Moor	Leicestershire
Methley Quarry	Leeds
Muir Dean	Fife
Nant Helen	Powys
Nant-y-Mynydd Site	Neath Port Talbot
Powharnal	East Ayrshire
Selar	Neath Port Talbot
Shewington	Midlothian
Shotton	Northumberland
Skares Road	East Ayrshire
Spireslack	East Ayrshire
Steadsburn	Northumberland
Temple Quarry	Kirklees
Wilsontown	South Lanarkshire

Aggregate output from the listed mines in each of the last five years was as follows:

					Output (tonnes)
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Deep mines	7,598,740	8,270,180	7,467,230	7,926,010	7,495,440
Surface mines	5,834,290	4,727,330	5,208,960	6,531,130	8,428,900

Nuclear Liabilities Financing Assurance Board: Meetings

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish on his Department's website the minutes of each meeting of the Nuclear Liabilities Financing Assurance Board to date. [320534]

Mr. Kidney: The Department of Energy and Climate Change will aim to publish the minutes of meetings of the Nuclear Liabilities Financing Assurance Board on its website around the time of Easter.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff of each grade in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies spent on first-class travel in the last 12 months. [320399]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not hold this information centrally and it can be answered only at disproportionate cost.

Fires Service College could provide this information only at disproportionate cost.

Planning Inspectorate could provide this information only at disproportionate cost.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre has had no expenditure on first-class travel.

Essex County Council and Castle Point Borough Council: Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make it his policy to *(a)* collect information on and *(b)* publish the value of remuneration packages for (i) the chief executive officer and the five highest paid officers of Castle Point borough council and (ii) the chief executive officer and the 10 highest paid officers of Essex county council in each of the last 10 years. [321180]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not currently collect or publish information about individual remuneration arrangements for local authority officers. However, the Department has brought forward new regulations to require local authorities to publish detailed salary and remuneration information for senior officers in their Statement of Annual Accounts with effect from 31 March 2010.

Local Government: East of England

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse has been of all legal proceedings relating to the structural review of Norfolk, Suffolk and Devon. [317343]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not hold information about the costs incurred by local authorities for legal proceedings that they have brought relating to the structural reviews in Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk.

The current costs incurred by the Department are set out in the following table.

	Legal costs to Department (£)
Challenge against the Boundary Committee where the Secretary of State has been named as an Interested Party brought by:	
Breckland District Council and Others	62,450
East Devon District Council	31,820
Suffolk Coastal (R oao Forest Heath District Council)	45,875
King's Lynn and Others	6,833
Challenge against the Secretary of State brought by:	
Devon and Norfolk County Councils	3,461

In litigation against the Boundary Committee related to the structural reviews, the Secretary of State appeared as an Interested Party and therefore did not seek costs.

The Boundary Committee has incurred costs of some £358,700, some of which it is seeking to recover from local authorities involved in the litigation.

Local Government: Poole

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the borough of Poole council on the effects of trends in Government funding on the level of *(a)* the provision of services by and *(b)* employment in the council; and if he will make a statement. [320384]

Ms Rosie Winterton: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no recent discussions with representatives of the borough of Poole council on the effects of trends in Government funding.

OLYMPICS

Government Olympic Executive: Pay

Mr. Scott: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in the Government Olympic Executive in each year since its inception. [306420]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 18 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 5W.

Olympic Games 2012: Private Finance Initiative

Angus Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many private finance initiative projects relating to the 2012 Olympics have been delayed because of problems obtaining finance; and what the monetary value of each contract is. [320568]

Tessa Jowell: There are no private finance initiative projects being funded from the public sector funding package for the 2012 Olympics. The former private developer projects—the Olympic Village and the International Broadcast Centre/Main Press Centre—which are now public sector projects, are on track to be delivered on time, as set out in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games Annual Report published on 9 February 2010.

Olympic Games 2012: Yorkshire and the Humber

John Battle: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will take steps to ensure that sporting venues in *(a)* Yorkshire and *(b)* Leeds benefit from expenditure incurred in hosting the London 2012 Olympics. [307441]

Tessa Jowell: Sporting venues in Leeds and Yorkshire are well placed to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the London 2012 Olympics.

Sport England has recently made a significant investment in the Aquatics Centre at the John Charles Sports Centre in Leeds. These facilities will play a significant part in developing young swimmers and divers and in hosting visiting Olympic squads. The £5 million investment has helped deliver an international standard 50 metre competition and training pool with moveable boom and floor that meets the needs of both performance swimmers and the local community. It also includes one of the best equipped diving competition and training pools in the UK.

Leeds has also benefited from the Free Swimming capital programme with awards totalling almost £2.5 million. This investment will help modernise several key community swimming pools including those at Aireborough and Kirkstall.

There are 49 pre-games training camps in Yorkshire that are available to Olympics teams, and the Serbian and Dutch swimming teams have already committed to holding their pre-games training camps in Leeds.

Sheffield also hosts the GB squads for boxing, volleyball and table tennis, and one of the GB centres for diving. These four sports have received their funding allocation from UK Sport based on their plans for London 2012 and have used some of their Cabinet Office programme's funding to enhance squad facilities. For example, boxing has invested in improving and expanding training areas in the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield into one of the best amateur boxing centres in the world.

Also, Dalby Forest in North Yorkshire has won the right to host the UCI Cross Country Mountain Bike World Cup based on its initial Olympic bid to be a games-time venue.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he last reviewed the processes used to *(a)* collect and *(b)* publish the annual emissions of carbon dioxide from domestic aviation; and if he will make a statement. [319816]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

(a) We estimate the annual emissions of carbon dioxide from domestic aviation in accordance with the IPCC 1996 revised guidelines, as we are required to do under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

These guidelines were reviewed and revised in 2006; however, the 2006 guidelines will not be implemented until after the 2008-12 Kyoto protocol commitment period.

Full details of both the 1996 revised guidelines and the 2006 guidelines can be found on the IPCC website at the following link:

http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/index.html

(b) Estimates of UK carbon dioxide emissions from all sectors, including domestic aviation, covering the period 1990 to 2008 were published by DECC as National Statistics on 2 February 2010.

These form part of the UK's greenhouse gas inventory submission for 2008, and represent the latest available estimates.

The statistics can be found at the following link:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate_change/gg_emissions/uk_emissions/2008_final/2008_final.aspx

Aviation: Safety

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will hold discussions with aircraft manufacturers on the relative safety merits of aircraft black boxes and real time data transmitters. [320230]

Paul Clark: The responsibility for determining what equipment should be installed on aircraft registered in the EU now rests with the European Aviation Safety Agency.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what criteria his Department uses in determining the award of contracts; and how much his Department and its predecessors spent on the advertisement of tenders for Government contracts since 1997. [303097]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is required to comply with the Public Contract Regulations 2006 which require contracts above the EU threshold to be awarded based on the "most economically advantageous tender" or "the lowest priced tender". However, it is Government policy to award contracts on the basis of the most advantageous tender and the Department follows this policy in respect of its tender evaluations.

The Department does not hold centrally information relating to the costs of advertising tenders and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, from the information that is available, the Department has spent £51,560 on advertisement of tenders since the Department was formed in May 2002.

Departmental Plants

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on pot plants in 2009-10 to date. [319209]

Chris Mole: The requested information is as follows:

(a) £13,724

(b) £57,514

The above expenditure typically relates to interior displays in the public reception areas of Department for Transport offices and in some cases includes maintenance costs.

All expenditure was incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety. We need to provide an environment where people work well and the provision of plants contributes to this, but we recognise the figure is high. These costs will therefore be significantly reduced over the next year along with other efficiency savings.

The data above exclude the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA). VOSA does not record the information requested and this can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Temporary Staff

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport from which companies his Department sourced temporary staff in each of the last three years; how many temporary staff his Department employed in each year; and what the monetary value of the contracts with each such company was in each such year. [320013]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport and its executive agencies operate separate finance andhuman resource systems and there are no centralised records relating to the numbers of temporary staff employed or the value of contracts with suppliers used to source temporary staff. To search across the Department's disparate finance and human resource systems to obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Information relating to spend on temporary staff is published in the Department's annual report. In the past three years these figures are:

	£ million
2006-07	16.906
2007-08	27.265
2008-09	27.700

Where records are available, the numbers of temporary staff employed by the Department in the past three years are:

	Number
2006-07	1,088
2007-08	1,353
2008-09	1,075

A table has been placed in the Libraries of the House showing the suppliers that the Department has used to source temporary staff between April 2007 and March 2009 and spend during this period.

Government Car and Despatch Agency: Consultants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 187W, on the Government Car and Despatch Agency, on which projects the agency engaged external consultants in each of those years. [319587]

Paul Clark: The Government Car and Despatch Agency engaged external consultants to work on the following projects in each of the years between 2004-05 and 2008-09 inclusive.

	Projects
2008-09	Government Mail Business Development Working Time Directive implementation HR Support, including pay negotiations Maintenance and Award of ISO Management Systems IT Systems
2007-08	Pay Award Negotiations Maintenance and Award of ISO Management Systems Customer Satisfaction Survey Facilities Management IT Systems
2006-07	Development of Performance Management Systems Customer Satisfaction Survey IT Systems Maintenance of ISO Management Systems Government Mail Business Development Marketing
2005-06	Customer Satisfaction Survey Maintenance and Award of ISO Management Systems IT Systems Marketing HR support
2004-05	Customer Satisfaction Survey Maintenance and Award of ISO Management Systems Government Mail Business Development HR support IT Systems

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department is taking to ensure that local authorities have sufficient funding to undertake repairs and resurfacing work on roads for which they are responsible. [320591]

Mr. Khan: This Department has provided sustained levels of funding to local authorities to assist them to invest in their roads. Since the introduction of the Local Transport Plan (LTP) settlement in 2001-02 this Department has more than doubled annual capital funding to local authorities across England (outside London) for maintaining local roads. LTP capital funding for highway maintenance in 2009-10 is £736 million, up from £265 million in 2000-01. Funding in London is a matter for the Mayor.

Local authorities are also able to use revenue funding, allocated by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) through the Formula Grant, for maintaining their local highways. Neither of these funding sources is ring-fenced. It is for local authorities to decide upon their spending priorities across the whole range of services that they provide.

In addition the Department has provided PFI funding to assist authorities to develop highway maintenance PFI schemes. Currently £2 billion PFI credits have been allocated for highways maintenance schemes. One project with allocated PFI credits of £121 million has been signed. In addition there are three projects in procurement with approved PFI credits of £1.5 billion. A further highway maintenance PFI project with approved funding of £365 million PFI credits is shortly to enter into procurement.

The Department has also provided emergency funding to local authorities to assist them to carry out repairs to their highways arising from extreme weather events.

We have also encouraged local authorities to adopt transport asset management plans. These will include inventories of highways assets, their existing condition, and the target condition based upon desired service levels. Knowledge of the condition of highways assets and the desired service level that an authority intends those assets to deliver, are key components in the process of deciding what expenditure is required.

A Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy report in July 2008 concluded that £15 million would be necessary to assist local authorities in Great Britain to develop transport asset management. Last year this Department allocated £32 million to assist English local authorities take forward highway asset management.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what proportion of roads in each region were gritted following snowfall between November 2009 and February 2010. [320297]

Mr. Khan: The Highways Agency treated the whole of the Strategic Road Network in England throughout the period. Winter service on other roads is the responsibility of each local highway authority and this information is not collected centrally.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department takes to ensure roads are safe for drivers during periods of snowfall. [320298]

Mr. Khan: The Highways Agency through its service providers implements area-specific winter maintenance plans across the Strategic Road Network throughout the winter period. Snow ploughs are fitted as soon as snow is forecast. Salt is spread both in advance of and during snowfall, supplemented by ploughing as required to ensure that the network remains as safe as reasonably practicable. The agency also provides information and advice to road users using variable message signs, the internet and the media.

Winter service on other roads is the responsibility of each local highway authority. The Department for Transport endorses the winter service guidance provided by the UK Roads Liaison Group in its highways maintenance code of practice, "Well-maintained Highways". This makes clear that safety is a prime consideration for winter service. My Department wrote to each local authority last year with a leaflet "Are you ready for winter?", when the winter service guidance was updated, encouraging authorities to review their winter service strategies.

Roads: Speed Limits

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on which *(a)* roads and *(b)* sections of road variable speed limits have been introduced in each of the last 10 years. [319046]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not routinely collate information about the location of variable speed limits. For principal roads or if the speed limit is varied to 20 mph, local traffic authorities have powers to introduce variable speed limits without consent from the Secretary of State. On the Strategic Road Network, variable speed limits are located among other locations, on:

M25—Junction 10 to Junction 16

M42—Junction J3A to Junction 7

M6—Junction 4 to Junction 5

M42—Junction 7 to Junction 9

M40—Junction 16 to M42 Junction 3A.

Thameslink Railway Line

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps he is taking to ensure the availability in the medium term of sufficient rolling stock able to negotiate the Moorgate tunnel. [321072]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is in negotiation with First Capital Connect to provide additional capacity to the route.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's long-term strategy for its activities in Afghanistan is. [320163]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Our military strategy in Afghanistan is designed to set the security conditions for the success of a broader political strategy, led by the Afghans themselves, and supported by the international community.

UK armed forces are operating in Afghanistan as part of the 44-nation international security assistance force (ISAF). ISAF forces are conducting security and stability operations throughout the country in support of the Afghan Government, and are supporting the growth in capacity and capability of the Afghan national security forces. Our armed forces, alongside our ISAF partners, also play an important role in facilitating improvements in governance and socio-economic development.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* aviation and *(b)* vehicle fuel for British forces in Afghanistan cost in each of the last five years. [319848]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The following table sets out the ground fuel and aviation fuel costs for Afghanistan for financial years (FYs) 2005-06 through to 2009-10, up to the end of January 2010.

£ million

Financial year	*Ground fuel*	*Aviation fuel*
2009-10 (end January 2010)	41.122	61.639
2008-09	48.890	66.317
2007-08	40.182	2.671
2006-07	5.447	2.866
2005-06	1.180	0.436
Total	136.821	133.929

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the budget is per person per day for meals for military personnel serving in Afghanistan. [320753]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Minister for Veterans (Mr. Jones) gave on 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 437, to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban).

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of the tactical requirement for long-range patrol vehicles in the current military operation in Afghanistan. [320763]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Commanders in Afghanistan have stressed the importance of having a range of vehicles from which they can select the most appropriate for specific tasks, including patrol vehicles. The use by our armed forces of all vehicle types is kept under constant review to ensure that they continue to meet operational requirements.

Air Force: Deployment

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average weekly flying time for a Royal Air Force pilot is. [320914]

Bill Rammell: Average weekly flying hours for RAF pilots are not recorded centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Aircraft Carriers

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Government plan to exempt the Queen Elizabeth carrier programme from the upcoming Strategic Defence Review. [320817]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have been very clear since the publication of the Defence Green Paper that everything other than Trident is included in the Strategic Defence Review. But unless the review takes us in a very radical new direction, aircraft carriers are likely to remain critical elements of our force structure. That is why we have signed the contracts and cut the steel.

Army: Counselling

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will investigate the reason for the increase in spending by his Department between 2003 and 2008 on counselling services for new recruits or Phase 1 trainees to the Army; and if he will make a statement. [320833]

Bill Rammell: Following the Blake Report and the Government's response in June 2006, the Army has striven further to ensure that the best welfare provision is in place for soldiers under training. We have made improvements in the level of welfare support available to new recruits, as well as in the way in which we monitor and report incidents. For example, the implementation of the Army's Suicide Vulnerability Risk Management Policy represents a major stride, since the tragic events at Deepcut, in our drive to reduce the incidence of suicide in the Army. We have also improved the military complaints process and increased supervisory levels in establishments with new recruits.

The Army's efforts to improve the welfare support available to recruits and trainees are having an effect. According to the results of the 2009 tri-service Recruit Trainee Survey over 90 per cent. of recruits and trainees consider that they are well looked after and fully understand the support that is there should they require it. An Ofsted report in June 2009 found that the support and care provided to recruits and trainees was comprehensive and wide ranging.

Bahrain: Military Bases

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which UK military assets are based in Bahrain. [320969]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 5 March 2010]:* HMS Grimsby, HMS Pembroke, HMS Chiddingfold and HMS Atherstone are permanently based in Bahrain. Other Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels operating in the region routinely visit Bahrain but are not permanently based there.

As Bahrain is within an operational theatre I am withholding information on other UK military assets which may be present because it would, or would be likely to, prejudice the efficiency, security and capability of the armed forces.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on office refurbishments in each of the last 10 years. [320505]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The requested information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Legal Costs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent in *(a)* legal fees and *(b)* compensation on cases involving harassment of its employees in each of the last 10 years. [320264]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 4 March 2010]:* The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was paid in reimbursable expenses to special advisers in his Department in each of the last five years. [320479]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Procedures for reimbursing staff expenses are set out in the Ministry of Defence policy manual and are in line with the provisions set out in the Civil Service Management Code. The code can be viewed at the following link:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/iam/codes/csmc/index.asp

As temporary civil servants, special advisers are subject to the same rules.

The following table contains the total amount of reimbursable expenses claimed by MOD special advisers over the last five financial years.

Financial year	*Total expenses (£)*
2004-05	3,465.12
2005-06	1,104.57
2006-07	0
2007-08	44.00
2008-09	2,992.41

Departmental Security

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many valid civilian passes granting access to his Department's buildings have been issued to employees of private defence companies; [319940]

(2) to which private defence companies civilian passes been issued since 1 January 2008. [319941]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The requested information is not centrally held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what purposes civilian passes are issued to employees of private defence companies. [319942]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Passes are issued to employees of defence companies in order that they may undertake contract-based activity and/or attend meetings with MOD customers.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence from which companies his Department sourced temporary staff in each of the last three years; how many temporary staff his Department employed in each year; and what the monetary value of the contracts with each such company was in each such year. [320014]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The People Pay and Pensions Agency (PPPA) began providing a service to engage manpower substitutes for the Department in November 2006, which covered clerical and administrative grades only. In 2008, the PPPA expanded its service to cover interim professional grades, before the service was further expanded in 2009 alongside the launch of a service to engage agency workers to fill industrial and security guard posts. For other grades employed by the MOD, individual business units are still making their own arrangements to engage temporary staff in some circumstances. The numbers of temporary workers engaged via the PPPA in the last three years are as follows:

Temporary workers engaged

1 March to 28 February	*Number*
2007-08	1,471
2008-09	1,457
2009-10	2,499

In the past three years, the PPPA has obtained temporary staff from the agencies listed as follows:

1st Choice Recruitment, AACE Ltd., Abacus Recruitment Ltd., Able Recruitment, Acorn 4 Jobs Ltd., Adecco UK Ltd., Alpha Personnel, Atebion, Atos Origin UK Ltd., Aviation Requirements Ltd., Badenoch & Clark, Barbara Barnes Recruitment, Capita Resourcing, Champion Recruitment, Charterhouse Recruitment, Chiltern Recruitment, Classic Recruitment, Clemtech, Concept Staffing, Cooper Lomaz, COS Recruitment, Elite Personnel Ltd., E-Man Solutions, Energy Footprint Ltd., England Associates, Fresh Approach Solutions, G4S, Hays Int Prof, Hays Specialist Recruitment Ltd., HR Go Recruitment, HRM Recruitment, J M Associates, Jennifer Griffiths Recruitment, JRA Aerospace, Kelly Services, Key Personnel, LA International, Macdonald + Company Freelance Ltd., Manpower UK Ltd., Methods Consulting, Military Medical Personnel, Morganblair, Morson International, Mountain HealthCare Ltd., MPI Aviation, MSB, NB Personnel, Office Angels, OfficeTeam, Paterson Accountancy, Personnel Selection, Pertemps Recruitment Partnership Ltd., Phoenix Strategic Ltd., Point Recruitment, Pro Active Personnel, Qinetiq Ltd., Recruitment Solutions (Folkestone) Ltd., Reed Accountancy, Reed Employment plc, Robert Half International, Royle Recruitment, Sally Hawke, SCOM, SIMS Catering Waitress Hire LLP, Storm Recruitment, Systems Consultants Services, Team Support Services, The Top

Agency, The Venn Group, Turner Charles Ltd., Venus Office Staffing Recruitment, Vigilant, Wenbee Ltd., WendyB Employment Consultancy, Work Force.

The monetary value of the contracts with each agency is commercially confidential. I am withholding the information as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Royal Regiment of Scotland: Military Exercises

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of his Department's planned military training exercises for *(a)* the 1st Battalion, *(b)* the 2nd Battalion, *(c)* the 3rd Battalion, *(d)* the 4th Battalion and *(e)* the 5th Battalion Royal Regiment of Scotland were cancelled before they took place in each of the last five years. [320811]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Trident Submarines

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on the maintenance, operation and re-fitting of Trident submarines in each of the last 10 years. [317850]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is not possible to provide full costs for the maintenance, operation and refitting of the Vanguard class submarines over the whole of the last 10 years as some of the information is not held in the format requested or held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The following table therefore shows the costs that are available in each of the last 10 years.

£ million

	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
External Contractor Costs	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.5	4.3	1.1	1.8	5.7	7.1	3.0
Estimated HM Naval Base Clyde Labour Costs	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.9	7.7	2.1	3.4	10.7	10.7	5.5
LOP(R) Planning and Long Lead Materials	0.0	6.8	45.4	23.0	32.6	19.5	18.8	17.4	27.2	13.3
Vanguard Class LOP (R)	0.0	0.0	0.0	91.0	60.3	75.2	76.6	96.8	60.3	64.4
Alterations and Additions	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3.9
Maintenance and refit total	0.0	6.8	45.4	115.3	104.9	97.9	100.7	130.6	105.2	90.8
Vanguard Class Operational Manpower	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	44.2	44.3	46.3
Vanguard Class Stock	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5.9	6.9	8.1
Other costs across Vanguard Class	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	[illegible]	1.2	1.6
Operation total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	51.1	52.3	56.0

n/a = Not available

The columns may not add to the total given due to rounding. All years apart from 2008-09 have some data that are not available, so the totals provided are incomplete for those years.

The Refit and Maintenance costs take account of the costs of delivering the ongoing Vanguard Class Long Overhaul Period (Refuel) (LOP (R)) programme, the costs of LOP(R) planning, and the procurement of long lead materials. The Refit and Maintenance costs do not include the D154 contract for the Submarine Refitting Facilities Upgrade at Devonport.

For 2002-03 onwards, the costs for Refit and Maintenance include external contractor costs, known as Contracted Out Operational Support (COOPS) under the Warship Support Modernisation Initiative (WSMI), where these can be attributed to the Vanguard Class. The COOPS costs relate to the provision of specialist subcontractor support for propulsion systems, masts and sensors, and weapons systems. It is not possible to provide equivalent costs prior to 2002 as these are not held in the format requested. The COOPS figure for 2002-03 only covers the six months for which data are available.

The figures given for the labour costs at Her Majesty's Naval Base (HMNB) Clyde are estimated because, under WSMI, these costs are collected for HMNB Clyde as a whole, and are not attributed to specific classes of ships or submarines. The figures quoted are derived from the total WSMI costs using a standard methodology. Costs are not available prior to 2002 because the contract for WSMI did not commence until September 2002, and information prior to this is not held in the format requested.

Alterations and Additions costs have been supplied only for 2008-09, which is the only year for which figures are available.

Nuclear propulsion costs are not held in the format requested because they cannot be broken down by submarine class. These costs would include the supply of spares and maintenance of Nuclear Steam Raising Plant components, the costs of Technical Authority support for maintenance of the design intent and safety case, the independent nuclear safety advice for the plant, and the provision of new reactor cores at refits. They would also cover the provision of cores, spares and other materiel maintenance by the equipment suppliers.

Operating costs prior to 2006-07 are not held centrally. The operating costs include manpower, stock (such as tools and hardware) and other costs such as travel and subsistence, and accommodation stores.

Trident: Finance

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the level of *(a)* actual and *(b)* projected expenditure on the (A) nuclear deterrent programme, including the Atomic Weapons Establishment and the future submarine programme, (B) Atomic Weapons Establishment and (C) future submarine programme in the period covered by the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review. [318783]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member shortly.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons his Department plans a retention period of one month for reports of unidentified flying objects. [320982]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The long-term retention of UFO sighting reports delivers no benefit to defence and diverts resources from higher priority tasks. UFO sighting reports passed to the MOD are retained for 30 days to allow correspondents to request the return of their reports should they wish to do so and are then destroyed.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Elections

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the presidential decree regarding the Electoral Complaints Commission in Afghanistan on the likelihood of free and fair parliamentary elections in that country in 2010; and if he will make a statement. [319784]

David Miliband: The Electoral Complaints Commission is a key oversight body and the individuals appointed to its panel will be subject to close scrutiny and will need to be of the highest quality and integrity. As agreed at the London Conference, the Afghan Government will work closely with the UN to learn lessons from the 2009 elections and to deliver improvements to the electoral process in 2010 and beyond. We will continue, alongside international partners, to support Afghan and UN efforts.

British Nationals Abroad: Prisoners

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of British citizens imprisoned in overseas jurisdictions; and what support and assistance his Department provides to such people. [318152]

Chris Bryant: On 30 September 2009 we were aware of 2,582 British nationals detained overseas. This figure is calculated every six months. In April we will have the figure for 31 March 2010. The support we can offer is set out in the publication "Support for British Nationals Abroad: A Guide". This includes making contact with the detainee, visiting if they want us to, making contact with their family, again if they want us to, offering basic information about the local legal and prison systems and a list of local interpreters and lawyers. If appropriate, we will consider approaching the local authorities if a detainee is not treated in line with internationally-accepted standards, including if they are mistreated. Within certain limits, we can forward funds to the detainee. We can also help them contact non-governmental organisations who offer support, such as Prisoners Abroad and, where appropriate, Fair Trials International or Reprieve.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to *(a)* encourage the ending of links between the Rwandan authorities and the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda and *(b)* seek to ensure that the sanctions imposed by the United Nations in respect of the Democratic Republic of Congo are maintained. [320592]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Rwandan authorities are not linked to the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR). The FDLR is an illegal militia group mainly comprising ex-genocidaires from the previous Rwandan regime. We welcome the rapprochement between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo and the co-operation between the two countries in tackling the FDLR.

We take our obligations under sanctions very seriously and will not hesitate to support sanctions against any person or company against whom there is sufficient evidence.

Departmental Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [320418]

Chris Bryant: One Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Minister, Lord Mervyn Davies, undertook language training in the past 12 months at a cost of £212.80.

370 FCO civil servants have received language training in the following 52 languages (in no particular order):

French
Danish
Spanish
Vietnamese
Portuguese
Russian
Mandarin
Japanese
Nepali

Norwegian
Polish
Dutch
Turkish
Arabic
Dari
Spanish LA
Malay
Italian
Macedonian
Cantonese
German
Farsi
Pashto
Albanian
Uzbek
Somali
Urdu
Bulgarian
Bengali
Swedish
Montenegrin
Portuguese (Brazilian)
Hebrew
Georgian
Greek
Amharic
Bosnian
Ukrainian
Romanian
Korean
Hindi
Indonesian
Cantonese
Mongolian
Serbian
Czech
Sorani Kurdish
Persian
Thai
Slovene
Latvian
Tagalog.

The total spend by the FCO's Language Policy and Standards Team from 1 March 2009 to date is £2,591,016. (This figure includes administration, travel and examination expenses.)

Government Hospitality: Wines

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 835W, on Government hospitality: wines, from what wine merchants and producers his Department purchased wine in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [320066]

Chris Bryant: During 2007 Government Hospitality purchased wines from the following suppliers:

Corney and Barrow Ltd
Justerini and Brooks Ltd
Jereboams
Berry Bros and Rudd Ltd
Averys of Bristol
Lea and Sandeman Ltd
Mentzendorff Ltd
John Armit Wines
Waitrose
O W Loeb
Bibendum Wines Ltd
Pol Roger Ltd
Maisons, Marques et Domaines Ltd
Hatch Mansfield Wines Ltd
Denbies
Three Choirs Vineyards
English Wines Group
Ridgeview Estate
Breaky Bottom Vineyards
Nyetimber Ltd

During 2008 Government Hospitality purchased wines from the following suppliers:

English Wines Group
Denbies
Averys of Bristol
Berry Bros and Rudd Ltd
Pol Roger Ltd
Waitrose
Maisons, Marques et Domaines Ltd
Corney and Barrow Ltd
Haynes Hanson and Clark Ltd
O W Loeb
Hatch Mansfield Wines Ltd
Lea and Sandeman Ltd
Justerini and Brooks Ltd
Jereboams.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each of the Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine's meetings in the last 12 months. [320092]

Chris Bryant: Copies of the minutes of the Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine (edited to protect commercial confidentiality) are available through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Freedom of Information web pages. The Committee's annual report is already in the Library of the House. I will place copies of the minutes from 2009 in the Library of the House.

Greece: Death

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance *(a)* the British Consulate in Corfu and *(b)* officials in his Department provided to the next of kin of Stephen Oliver; and if he will make a statement. [320245]

Chris Bryant: Consular staff both in Corfu and London provided consular assistance to Stephen Oliver's family throughout this tragic case. We advised Mr. Oliver's family of the practical procedures for dealing with a death of a British national in Corfu. As consular staff took immediate action to follow up concerns raised by the family about the behaviour of the local undertaker. We have since removed him from the embassy's list of approved undertakers in Greece. Consular staff are unable to accept personal belongings of British nationals. We tried on several occasions to make contact with Mr. Oliver's friends and the local undertaker in order to arrange for his personal belongings to be returned to the UK. Consular staff further assisted by arranging (for Mrs. Oliver during her visit to Corfu) meetings with the coroner's office and the local undertaker.

Iran: Human Rights

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the imprisonment of Behzad Nabavi; and what his most recent assessment is of levels of political and civil freedom in Iran. [321163]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Former Member of Parliament and Minister, Behzad Nabavi, was one of several notable figures arrested on 16 June 2009 following the disputed presidential elections in Iran. The EU raised concerns about these detentions on 3 August with the Iranian authorities in Tehran, and again in a declaration on 23 October. On 9 February Nabavi was sentenced to five years imprisonment for his role in the post election unrest. The Iranian authorities continue to suppress legitimate protest, restrict civil and political liberties and use the threat of violence, and even execution, to silence dissent. Despite this, many brave Iranians continue to demand their fundamental rights. We urge the Iranian authorities to heed their citizens' calls, and to release all individuals detained for political offences.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the number of opposition figures *(a)* imprisoned and *(b)* executed in Iran since the most recent presidential election. [321165]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: While there are no official figures available on the numbers of opposition figures imprisoned since the June 2009 election, international estimates broadly agree that around 3,000 individuals have been arrested. Many have subsequently been released; however, others remain in detention or have stood trial. We are concerned that the whereabouts of many more remain unknown.

We cannot confirm that any opposition figures have been executed for involvement in the post-election unrest; however, we are concerned that [illegible] number of individuals have been sentenced to death [illegible] show-trials which fell far short of international standards guaranteeing the right to a fair trial. On 28 January Iran executed Arash Rahmanipour and Mohammad Reza Ali-Zamani; both were sentenced to death for "enmity against God" following prosecution at show-trials.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take to seek to ensure that Iran complies with international human rights conventions and laws. [321166]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is clear that the people of Iran are leading the charge for human rights and democracy. However, they need to know that their calls for basic rights and freedoms are supported by the international community. The Iranian Government have a duty to ensure that their actions live up to the human rights standards to which they have committed. The United Kingdom was one of many UN member states to draw attention to the deteriorating human rights situation in Iran during its Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva on 15 February. The HRC is currently in session in Geneva, and we are seeking every opportunity to draw attention to the situation in Iran, both nationally and as the EU. My noble Friend Baroness Kinnock raised our concerns when addressing the Council on 2 March and we did so again in our response to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on 4 March.

We raised concerns with the Iranian authorities on at least 70 occasions last year, either bilaterally or through the EU and UN. We will continue to work hard alongside partners, international non-governmental organisations and civil society to ensure that the Iranian regime is held to account over its appalling human rights record.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's latest assessment is of Iran's nuclear capabilities. [321164]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The latest Iran report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General highlights that Iran has increased its stockpile of low enriched uranium to 2,065 kg in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions; is starting to enrich to higher levels when there is no civilian purpose and has announced plans for 10 new enrichment plants. Iran's refusal to answer questions about possible military dimensions to its programme leads the IAEA to express concern about development of a nuclear payload.

Israel: EU External Trade

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the provision of EU concessions to the State of Israel following the European Court of Justice ruling that Israeli goods made in Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank cannot be considered Israeli; and if he will make a statement. [320609]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 4 March 2010]:* The European Court of Justice's recent ruling in the case of C-386/08 (Brita-Gmbh) concerned the procedures which a EU member state's customs authority should follow in a case where imported goods are shown as being of Israeli origin, and preferential customs tariff treatment is claimed under the EC-Israel Association Agreement, but where there is reason to suppose that the goods in question did in fact originate in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs).

This ruling has no effect on the Government's policies, since the Court's ruling confirms the correctness of the policy already in place, and I have had no discussions

There are no inconsistencies between the Court's ruling and the technical advice concerning the labelling of produce grown in the OPTs that was issued by DEFRA on 10 December 2009.

Nuclear Weapons: Proliferation

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what negotiating position his Department has adopted for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in May 2010; and what objectives he has set for the outcomes of that conference. [320522]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The United Kingdom is committed to working intensively with a wide range of international partners to establish consensus for strengthening the non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

We want the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference to produce a mandate or action plan, which is balanced across the three mutually-reinforcing NPT pillars of non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Spain: EC Presidency

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had in the General Affairs Council on the agenda of the Spanish Presidency of the European Union. [320290]

Chris Bryant: I attended the General Affairs Council on 25 January 2010 where Spain's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation presented the programme for the Spanish Presidency. We welcomed the Spanish Presidency's choice of priorities, in particular the focus on economic recovery with a low carbon, social agenda at its core.

A more comprehensive overview was given in our Command Paper 7778 "Prospects for the European Union: The Spanish Presidency", laid before the House on 29 January 2010.

WALES

Referendums

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations will be consulted on the request made by the National Assembly for Wales for a referendum to be held under the provisions of the Government of Wales Act 2006. [321167]

Mr. Hain: These issues are currently being progressed.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales by what date he is required to give a response to the request for a referendum from the National Assembly for Wales. [321168]

Mr. Hain: 17 June 2010.

Welsh Language

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues and the Welsh Assembly Government on the use of the Welsh language in Welsh politics; and if he will make a statement. [320840]

Mr. Hain: I discuss a range of issues with ministerial colleagues in Whitehall and with the First Minister including those relating to the Welsh language and the passage of the Welsh Language LCO. I also met the Welsh Language Group Mudiadau Dathlu'r Gymraeg last month.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Camelot

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the National Lottery Commission and *(b)* Camelot on Camelot's application to operate certain commercial services in addition to the National Lottery; and if he will make a statement; [320293]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure the National Lottery Commission consults stakeholders and other interested parties on the implications for its core National Lottery business and brand of Camelot's application to operate certain commercial services; and if he will make a statement. [320294]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My officials and I have regular meetings with both the National Lottery Commission and Camelot about the full range of National Lottery regulation issues, and the possibility of Camelot providing commercial services which are ancillary to the operation of the National Lottery has been discussed in that context.

The approval of the National Lottery Commission is required before the National Lottery operator can undertake any ancillary activity and the commission is currently considering a proposal from Camelot to offer commercial services using National Lottery terminals. The commission will consider the proposal in light of its statutory duties and therefore will take into account issues such as the implications for the core National Lottery business and brand.

The commission is currently consulting on the EU/competition law considerations which may arise from the proposal, as these are issues in which those already offering such services have a direct interest. The commission considers that it will have sufficient information to exercise its discretion properly, without consulting on the implications for the core National Lottery business and brand.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the total carbon dioxide emissions from his Department's buildings in each year since 2005. [319806]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The estimate of carbon dioxide emissions from offices is as follows:

	Tonnes of carbon dioxide
2006-07	4,615
2007-08	2,251
2008-09	1,760

Information prior to 2006 is not available.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what information technology projects initiated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were cancelled prior to completion in the last 12 months; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [320429]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No information technology projects have been cancelled prior to completion by my Department or its agency in the last 12 months.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 103W, on departmental marketing, how much his Department and agencies have spent on advertising, marketing, public relations and publicity in relation to the *(a)* Real Help Now and *(b)* Building Britain's Future themed campaign to date. [320461]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Both Real Help Now and Building Britain's Future are cross-government campaigns.

This Department spent £300 on a flyer for the Future Jobs Fund, as part of the Real Jobs Now campaign. We have not spent anything directly on Building Britain's Future.

Departmental Offices

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on office refurbishments in each of the last 10 years. [320468]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has spent the following on office refurbishments in each of the last 10 years.

	£
1999-2000	243,000
2000-01	0
2001-02	0
2002-03	0
2003-04	0
2004-05	0
2005-06	0
2006-07	8,700,000
2007-08	0
2008-09	40,625

Departmental Plants

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies has spent on pot plants in 2009-10. [319229]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has spent £11,018 to date on pot plants in the financial year 2009-10.

The Royal Parks has spent £545 to date on pot plants in the financial year 2009-10.

National Lottery: Sports

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much National Lottery funding was spent on grass roots sports *(a)* in Poole and *(b)* nationally in each year from 1997 to 2009, expressed in real terms. [320485]

Mr. Sutcliffe: National Lottery funding for grass roots sports is delivered by two bodies, Sport England and the Big Lottery Fund (BIG).

(a) Lottery funding to Poole channelled through Sport England from 1997 to 2009 is as follows:

Financial year	*Sport England lottery funding Poole (£)*
1997-98	9,735
1999-2000	429,000
2000-01	225,938
2002-03	497,716
2004-05	60,000
2005-06	60,000
2006-07	277,074
2007-08	188,000
2008-09	814,801
2009-10[1]	15,850
Total	2,578,114

[1] To 31 December 2009

(b) Total Lottery funding channelled through Sport England nationally from 1997 to 2009 is as follows:

Financial year	*Sport England lottery funding nationally (£)*
1997-98	189,236,874
1998-99	320,737,864
1999-2000	145,594,539
2000-01	326,520,739
2001-02	470,613,280
2002-03	239,418,750
2003-04	160,369,252
2004-05	188,274,936
2005-06	157,199,588
2006-07	126,031,063
2007-08	106,495,643
2008-09	103,463,937
2009-10	252,700,764
Total	2,786,697,229

(a) The BIG Lottery Fund's actual expenditure (rather than awards made) comprises £830,604, distributed to a total of nine community sports projects where the beneficiaries are located in the Poole constituency.

Financial year	*BIG amount distributed Poole (£)*
2002-03	15,965
2003-04	423,033
2004-05	391,611
Total	830,609

(*b*) Total Lottery funding channelled through BIG and its predecessor bodies to England from 1997 to 2009, as actual expenditure (rather than awards made) on sports related projects, is as follows:

Financial year	*BIG amount distributed England (£)*
2001-02	11,400
2002-03	4,500,970
2003-04	23,957,471
2004-05	60,862,060
2005-06	197,754,894
2006-07	175,423,208
2007-08	100,153,903
2008-09	88,631,818
Total	651,295,724

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Discipline

15. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to help teachers maintain discipline in schools. [320690]

Mr. Coaker: This Government have given teachers a range of powers to tackle poor behaviour including, for the first time, a clear statutory power to discipline pupils. We have also provided support, guidance and consultancy to schools on behaviour improvement. Our behaviour challenge launched last September, sets out a series of actions to drive behaviour standards higher—enabling all schools to be not simply satisfactory in their behaviour standards but good or outstanding.

Free School Meals

17. **Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the level of educational attainment of pupils eligible to receive free school meals; and if he will make a statement. [320692]

Mr. Coaker: Long-term trends show that the achievement of pupils eligible for free school meals is rising, and that gaps in attainment between those pupils and their more affluent peers are narrowing. To give just one example, between 2002 and 2009, the percentage of free school meals pupils achieving the equivalent of five or more good GCSEs rose by 25.9 percentage points (from 23 per cent. to 48.9 per cent.), in comparison with a 19.1 percentage point rise for non-free school meals pupils.

UK Council for Child Internet Safety

19. **Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made in establishing the UK Council for Child Internet Safety; and if he will make a statement. [320694]

Dawn Primarolo: The UK Council for Child Internet Safety was established on 29 September 2008 and now has over 160 members from Government, law enforcement, the third sector and industry.

In December last year, UKCCIS launched its first child internet safety strategy 'Click Clever, Click Safe'. We believe this is the first such strategy of its kind anywhere in the world and represents a real step forward in the development of work to keep children safe online.

Secondary Schools: Halton

20. **Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the performance of secondary schools in Halton and the north-west. [320695]

Mr. Coaker: Between 1998 and 2008 the percentage of pupils in Halton achieving five good GCSEs, including English and maths, increased from 24.7 per cent. to 49.2 per cent. making it the sixth most improved local authority nationally over that period. Over the same period the results for the north-west region, on the same measure, improved from 32.9 per cent. to 47.4 per cent. The authority's results dipped in 2009 and we are working closely with them through the National Challenge programme to provide additional support to those schools that need it.

Academies

21. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest assessment is of progress on the academies programme; and if he will make a statement. [320696]

Mr. Coaker: There are now 203 academies open in 83 local authorities with up to a further 100 opening in 2010. Evidence from independent reports by PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ofsted and the National Audit Office show academies are working. For academies with results in 2008 and 2009 the increase in the proportion of pupils achieving at least five A*-C GCSEs including English and maths is 5.0 percentage points, an increase on last year's academy improvement rate of 4.3 percentage points and double the average national increase.

Building Schools for the Future

22. **Mr. Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made on the Building Schools for the Future programme in Stoke-on-Trent. [320697]

Mr. Coaker: Stoke-on-Trent is in wave 1 of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

The framework contract for construction agents is in place and OBC approval is imminent. The authority expects work to start on the first school in September 2010.

Funding levels for all schools and academies, together with feasibility designs have been approved.

Catch-up Support

23. **Andrew Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for the future provision of catch-up support for children in literacy and numeracy. [320698]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Government's commitment to the future provision of catch-up support in literacy and numeracy is encapsulated in the Pupil Guarantees, which set out entitlements to support for children who are not making good progress in mathematics or English at key stages 1, 2 and 3. The guarantees are underpinned by programmes including Every Child a Reader, Every Child a Writer and Every Child Counts, in addition to the one-to-one tuition programme and secondary programmes such as Literacy Plus and Study Plus.

Bullying

24. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the number of children subject to bullying in schools; and if he will make a statement. [320699]

Mr. Coaker: The annual TellUs survey provides information on this. According to TellUs 4 (2009), 46 per cent. say they have been bullied in school, of these 53 per cent. were bullied in the last year. There was a 24 percentage point improvement on the number of young people who felt their school dealt effectively with bullying.

Overall, 28.8 per cent. of young people surveyed said they had been bullied at some time during the last year, either in or out of school.

NEETs

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training. [320691]

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training; and if he will make a statement. [320693]

Mr. Iain Wright: We published "Investing in Potential" in December 2009 setting out the decisive steps we are taking to reduce the proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training. Through our September and January Guarantees, we are offering 16 and 17-year-olds a place in learning. The Young Person's Guarantee will ensure that 18 to 24-year-olds still unemployed after six months will be guaranteed access to a job, training or work experience.

Education: Charities

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any additional changes to arrangements for registration of educational charities have been agreed with the Charity Commission since the publication of the protocol on academies in 2009. [319670]

Mr. Coaker: There have been no changes on the registration of educational charities since the publication of the protocol on academies in 2009. Officials are in discussions with the Charity Commission on the ways in which academy trusts can be better supported through the process of registration as charities. The Secretary of State has agreed in principle to become the principal regulator for voluntary and foundation schools, subject to agreement on the details of the associated responsibilities.

GCSE: Poole

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils resident in the Poole unitary authority area sat a GCSE in *(a)* history, *(b)* physics, *(c)* chemistry and *(d)* biology in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009. [320386]

Mr. Coaker: Information about whether a pupil has entered GCSEs in history, physics, chemistry and biology has only been available on the National Pupil Database since the 2003/04 academic year.

Students[1, 2] resident[3] in Poole unitary authority entered for GCSEs in (a) history, (b) physics, (c) chemistry and (d) biology in 2003/04 and 2008/09

Poole unitary authority	*2003/04*	*2008/09*
Number of students[1, 2] entered for		
History GCSE	464	481
Physics GCSE	224	328
Chemistry GCSE	221	328
Biology GCSE	223	336

[1] Data for 2003/04 are based on pupils aged 15 on 31 August 2003 and data for 2008/09 are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4.

[2] Students attending maintained schools only, including city technology colleges and academies

[3] Based on students with a valid postcode in that academic year.

Source:

National Pupil Database (2003/04 final data, 2008/09 amended data).

National Curriculum Tests

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children achieved at least level 2 in each subject at Key Stage 1 in each year since the introduction of such assessments. [317744]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 22 February 2010]*: The information requested is in the following tables.

Reading: Key Stage 1: Task/test and teacher assessment results, percentage of students who achieved at or at or above the given level

	Level 2	*Level 2B[1]*	*Level 3*
1995	78	—	33
1996	78	—	30
1997	80	—	26
1998	80	62	26

Reading: Key Stage 1: Task/test and teacher assessment results, percentage of students who achieved at or at or above the given level

	Level 2	Level 2B[1]	Level 3
1999	82	66	29
2000	83	68	28
2001	84	69	29
2002	84	69	30
2003	84	69	28
2004[2]	85	71	29
2005	85	72	27
2006	84	71	26
2007	84	71	26
2008	84	71	25
2009[4]	84	72	26

Reading: Key Stage 1: Task/test and teacher assessment results, number of students who achieved at or at or above the given level

	Level 2	Level 2B[1]	Level 3
1995	466,500	—	199,600
1996	464,600	—	176,600
1997	489,500	—	160,300
1998	500,800	389,000	163,600
1999	513,000	412,000	184,300
2000	504,600	409,200	168,900
2001	505,700	413,600	174,400
2002	495,700	405,000	177,200
2003	487,900	401,300	162,200
2004[2]	499,100	415,700	168,000
2005	484,800	411,500	153,500
2006	474,500	400,600	143,900
2007	458,300	388,900	141,300
2008	450,600	382,800	135,900
2009[4]	449,900	383,400	138,200

Writing: Key Stage 1: Task/test and teacher assessment results, percentage of students who achieved at or at or above the given level

	Level 2	Level 2B[1]	Level 3
1995	80	—	15
1996[1]	79	—	6
1997	80	—	6
1998	81	48	7
1999	83	53	8
2000	84	57	9
2001	86	59	9
2002	86	60	9
2003	81	62	16
2004[2]	82	62	16
2005	82	62	15
2006	81	60	14
2007	80	59	13
2008	80	58	12
2009[4]	81	60	12

Writing: Key Stage 1: Task/test and teacher assessment results, number of students who achieved at or at or above the given level

	Level 2	Level 2B[1]	Level 3
1995	477,300	—	88,200
1996[1]	474,600	—	36,700
1997	490,200	—	36,900
1998	507,800	304,000	45,200
1999	519,600	335,400	51,000
2000	511,000	341,900	53,400
2001	515,800	353,100	57,100
2002	506,100	351,200	55,800
2003	471,000	358,700	93,400
2004[2]	480,900	362,900	93,500
2005	469,200	351,100	85,800
2006	457,300	339,100	78,300
2007	439,300	321,500	69,000
2008	429,800	314,000	65,300
2009[4]	431,100	318,100	65,900

Mathematics: Key Stage 1: Task/test and teacher assessment results, percentage of students who achieved at or at or above the given level

	Level 2	Level 2B[1]	Level 3
1995	79	—	19
1996	82	—	19
1997	84	—	20
1998	84	61	19
1999	87	64	21
2000	90	73	25
2001	91	75	28
2002	90	76	31
2003	90	73	29
2004[2]	90	75	28
2005	91	74	23
2006	90	73	21
2007	90	74	22
2008	90	74	21
2009[4]	89	74	21

Mathematics: Key Stage 1: Task/test and teacher assessment results, number of students who achieved at or at or above the given level

	Level 2	Level 2B[1]	Level 3
1995	470,700	—	116,200
1996	491,500	—	114,300
1997	512,700	—	124,400
1998	529,000	382,500	118,400
1999	544,000	399,000	134,000
2000	542,900	440,800	153,000
2001	546,100	454,300	166,700
2002	531,900	445,100	184,200
2003	523,300	426,000	169,400
2004[2]	531,500	443,600	165,700
2005	518,000	421,900	130,400
2006	507,300	410,600	120,400
2007	491,800	404,200	120,500
2008	481,500	395,600	114,400
2009[4]	476,900	392,400	112,700

Sciences: Key Stage 1: Task/test and teacher assessment results, percentage of students who achieved at or at or above the given level

	Level 2	Level 2B[1]	Level 3
2005	90	—	25
2006	89	—	24
2007	89	—	23
2008	89	—	22
2009[4]	89	—	22

Science: Key Stage 1: Task/test and teacher assessment results, number of students who achieved at or at or above the given level

	Level 2	Level 2B[1]	Level 3
2005	510,500	—	142,400
2006	501,400	—	133,000
2007	486,100	—	125,200
2008	476,300	—	118,800

Science: Key Stage 1: Task/test and teacher assessment results, number of students who achieved at or at or above the given level

	Level 2	Level 2B[3]	Level 3
2009[4]	473,800	0	116,700

[1] The assessment of writing changed in 1996 and is not comparable to earlier years.

[2] Figures prior to 2004 are based on task/test assessments.

Figures for 2004 are based on a combination of task/test assessment in non-pilot schools and new post-2004 teacher assessment arrangements in pilot schools.

Figures for 2005 onward are based on post-2004 teacher assessment arrangements. There were no test/task reporting arrangements for science, therefore data prior to 2005 are not available.

Figures from 2004 onwards are not directly comparable with those prior to 2004, and care is needed in interpreting trends in the data.

[3] Prior to 1998 data on sub-levels are not available.

Science data are not reported at sub-level therefore figures for 2B are not available.

[4] All figures are based on final data, with the exception of 2009 which is based on provisional data.

Notes:

Numbers are rounded to nearest 100.

Percentages are rounded to nearest percentage point.

Pearson Group

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions on what topics he has had with senior personnel at Pearson in the last 12 months. [320227]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State and other Ministers have had a number of meetings with senior personnel from Pearson, including its subsidiary Edexcel, over the last 12 months. These meetings covered a range of topics including the establishment of Ofqual, Diplomas and other 14 to 19 qualifications issues.

Personal Social and Health Education

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what plans he has to provide specialist teacher training to *(a)* teachers and *(b)* trainee teachers to deliver sex and relationships education within the personal, health, social and economic curriculum; [312702]

(2) how many teachers he expects to be trained to teach sex and relationships education under the personal, social, health and economic education provisions proposed in the Children, Schools and Families Bill. [312703]

Mr. Coaker: The majority of schools have been teaching personal, social, health and economic education (PSHEE)—which includes sex and relationships education (SRE)—as a non-statutory subject for many years, through a mix of specialist PSHEE teachers, as well as form tutors.

In general, budgets for teachers' continuing professional development (CPD) are devolved to individual schools and no central records are kept on how much of this money is spent on CPD for individual subjects. However, in recognition of the sensitive and varied topics covered in PSHEE, additional central funding for a national CPD programme has been available to schools for a number of years. This has resulted in around 8,000 teachers having been trained and a further 1,800 are currently in training this year.

When PSHEE becomes compulsory in the national curriculum from September 2011, we would expect most of the teaching to continue to come from existing teachers who will receive supplementary training, either through the national programme identified above, or from locally sourced training paid for from schools' local budgets.

However, in recognition that PSHEE will be compulsory from September 2011, we are working with the Training and Development Agency for schools (TDA), to develop a route through initial teacher training (ITT) to become a specialist PSHEE teacher. From September 2010, we anticipate that 200 trainee teachers a year will be trained to deliver PSHEE as an enhancement to their main subject area.

To enhance PSHEE coverage in all ITT, we are changing the guidance so that providers of ITT will need to ensure that all of their trainees are familiar with the National Curriculum guidance on PSHEE that is relevant to the age ranges they will teach.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent per pupil *(a)* in each local authority area in the East Midlands and *(b)* on average in England since 1997. [318766]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 25 February 2010]*: The available information on how much has been spent per pupil in East Midlands and in England since 1997 is shown in the following table.

School based expenditure per pupil in East Midlands Government office region from 1997-98 to 2007-08

		England	Derbyshire	Derby	Leicestershire	Leicester City	Rutland
1997-98	Pre-Primary and Primary Education	1,740	1,580	1,670	1,660	1,740	1,890
	Secondary Education	2,360	2,300	2,550	2,290	2,320	0
	Special Schools	9,830	10,290	8,890	12,760	9,680	0
	Total (including Pre-Primary)	2,080	1,900	2,000	1,990	2,080	1,900
1998-99	Pre-Primary and Primary Education	1,870	1,730	1,850	1,810	1,910	2,130
	Secondary Education	2,450	2,370	2,680	2,400	2,540	0
	Special Schools	10,110	10,450	8,980	13,270	10,570	0
	Total (including Pre-Primary)	2,190	2,020	2,160	2,130	2,280	2,120
1999-2000	Primary Education	2,010	1,820	1,940	1,930	2,130	2,160

School based expenditure per pupil in East Midlands Government office region from 1997-98 to 2007-08

		England	Derbyshire	Derby	Leicestershire	Leicester City	Rutland
	Pre-Primary and Primary Education	2,050	1,840	1,990	2,000	2,150	2,190
	Secondary Education	2,610	2,430	2,690	2,500	2,920	2,680
	Special Schools	10,900	11,760	9,430	11,190	9,120	11,960
	Total (including Pre-Primary)	2,390	2,150	2,340	2,280	2,560	2,450
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	2,370	2,140	2,320	2,240	2,550	2,430
2000-01	Primary Education	2,210	2,020	2,170	2,080	2,390	2,260
	Pre-Primary and Primary Education	2,280	2,040	2,330	2,160	2,460	2,320
	Secondary Education	2,830	2,590	2,910	2,720	3,230	2,920
	Special Schools	11,860	12,460	10,170	11,550	12,340	14,890
	Total (including Pre-Primary)	2,620	2,340	2,650	2,460	2,920	2,650
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	2,590	2,330	2,550	2,420	2,870	2,620
2001-02	Primary Education	2,480	2,250	2,610	2,260	2,640	2,570
	Pre-Primary and Primary Education	2,570	2,290	2,840	2,420	2,730	2,680
	Secondary Education	3,150	2,870	3,310	2,970	3,560	3,130
	Special Schools	13,030	13,210	11,540	12,140	16,810	16,820
	Total (including Pre-Primary)	2,940	2,610	3,120	2,730	3,280	2,950
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	2,900	2,590	2,990	2,640	3,220	2,890
2002-03	Primary Education	2,530	2,350	2,430	2,190	2,520	2,540
	Secondary Education	3,230	3,000	3,180	2,930	3,380	3,100
	Special Schools	12,820	13,360	11,340	12,640	15,870	18,840
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	2,950	2,700	2,840	2,600	3,070	2,870
2003-04	Primary Education	2,750	2,480	2,730	2,420	2,760	2,840
	Secondary Education	3,550	3,270	3,520	3,270	3,680	3,500
	Special Schools	14,050	14,050	12,990	13,950	14,760	21,700
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	3,230	2,910	3,140	2,890	3,320	3,230
2004-05	Primary Education	2,910	2,630	2,940	2,580	2,990	2,950
	Secondary Education	3,800	3,480	3,810	3,440	3,960	3,650
	Special Schools	15,110	14,830	15,310	15,620	15,280	25,140
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	3,450	3,100	3,460	3,070	3,570	3,370
2005-06	Primary Education	3,150	2,900	3,190	2,860	3,210	3,130
	Secondary Education	4,070	3,750	4,030	3,630	4,260	3,850
	Special Schools	16,430	17,420	17,550	16,390	16,220	25,570
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	3,720	3,380	3,710	3,320	3,830	3,570
2006-07	Primary Education	3,360	3,150	3,420	3,010	3,410	3,370
	Secondary Education	4,320	4,030	4,270	3,890	4,600	4,120
	Special Schools	17,480	18,930	18,840	17,460	18,160	29,960
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	3,950	3,660	3,930	3,540	4,110	3,840
2007-08	Primary Education	3,580	3,340	3,590	3,220	3,820	3,530
	Secondary Education	4,620	4,320	4,590	4,140	4,920	4,370
	Special Schools	18,650	20,900	22,700	18,370	20,270	34,230
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	4,210	3,900	4,200	3,780	4,500	4,040
2008-09	Primary Education	3,780	3,450	3,810	3,430	3,750	3,600
	Secondary Education	4,890	4,580	4,690	4,460	5,160	4,390
	Special Schools	19,790	20,750	25,650	17,840	18,910	47,110
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	4,460	4,080	4,410	4,040	4,550	4,080

		Pre LGR Nottinghamshire	*Nottinghamshire*	*City of Nottingham*	*Lincolnshire*	*Northamptonshire*
1997-98	Pre-Primary and Primary Education	1,720	—	—	1,680	1,580
	Secondary Education	2,380	—	—	2,510	2,250
	Special Schools	13,290	—	—	9,230	8,140

		Pre LGR Nottinghamshire	*Nottinghamshire*	*City of Nottingham*	*Lincolnshire*	*Northamptonshire*
	Total (including Pre-Primary)	2,070	—	—	2,070	1,930
1998-99	Pre-Primary and Primary Education	—	1,810	1,950	1,740	1,720
	Secondary Education	—	2,390	2,580	2,500	2,360
	Special Schools	—	13,530	12,330	9,500	8,310
	Total (including Pre-Primary)	—	2,130	2,250	2,110	2,060
1999-2000	Primary Education	—	2,010	2,090	1,870	1,910
	Pre-Primary and Primary Education	—	2,030	2,120	1,870	1,930
	Secondary Education	—	2,540	2,760	2,540	2,540
	Special Schools	—	13,520	13,890	10,320	9,940
	Total (including Pre-Primary)	—	2,330	2,460	2,250	2,290
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	—	2,320	2,440	2,250	2,280
2000-01	Primary Education	—	2,220	2,260	1,990	2,160
	Pre-Primary & Primary Education	—	2,240	2,310	2,000	2,180
	Secondary Education	—	2,710	3,040	2,690	2,790
	Special Schools	—	13,340	13,600	10,970	10,910
	Total (including Pre-Primary)	—	2,520	2,680	2,400	2,560
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	—	2,510	2,650	2,400	2,540
2001-02	Primary Education	—	2,410	2,800	2,070	2,340
	Pre-Primary & Primary Education	—	2,430	2,860	2,090	2,390
	Secondary Education	—	2,970	3,640	2,850	2,940
	Special Schools	—	14,420	15,900	11,930	10,990
	Total (including Pre-Primary)	—	2,750	3,260	2,540	2,740
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	—	2,740	3,230	2,530	2,710
2002-03	Primary Education	—	2,500	2,930	2,260	2,280
	Secondary Education	—	3,030	3,720	3,070	2,900
	Special Schools	—	13,770	16,300	12,260	10,730
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	—	2,810	3,350	2,740	2,660
2003-04	Primary Education	—	2,740	3,260	2,450	2,600
	Secondary Education	—	3,340	4,180	3,380	3,370
	Special Schools	—	16,040	16,500	13,510	12,730
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	—	3,100	3,720	3,000	3,040
2004-05	Primary Education	—	2,900	3,410	2,600	2,720
	Secondary Education	—	3,590	4,430	3,620	3,700
	Special Schools	—	17,180	17,550	14,150	13,620
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	—	3,320	3,940	3,220	3,270
2005-06	Primary Education	—	3,150	3,720	2,820	2,880
	Secondary Education	—	3,890	4,710	3,870	3,840
	Special Schools	—	18,450	18,050	15,380	15,000
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	—	3,600	4,250	3,480	3,430
2006-07	Primary Education	—	3,240	3,910	3,050	3,020
	Secondary Education	—	4,080	4,890	4,140	4,110
	Special Schools	—	19,690	19,250	16,560	15,680
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	—	3,740	4,430	3,750	3,630
2007-08	Primary Education	—	3,430	4,030	3,280	3,330
	Secondary Education	—	4,400	5,270	4,420	4,400
	Special Schools	—	20,940	20,980	17,530	17,160
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	—	4,000	4,660	4,020	3,890
2008-09.	Primary Education	—	3,690	4,230	3,430	3,320
	Secondary Education	—	4,710	5,700	4,720	4,520
	Special Schools	—	22,760	21,520	18,380	17,740

		Pre LGR Nottinghamshire	Nottinghamshire	City of Nottingham	Lincolnshire	Northamptonshire
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	—	4,290	4,940	4,250	4,000

Notes:
1. The financial information used in the answer to this PQ is taken from the Department's s52 data collection.
2. 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the RO1 form collected by CLG to the Section 52 form from the DCSF. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables. The change in sources is shown by the blank rows.
3. Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending maintained establishments within each sector and are drawn from the DCSF Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.
4. Local government reorganisation (LGR) took place during the mid to late 1990s.
5. Expenditure was not distinguished between the pre-primary and primary sectors until the inception of Section 52 for financial year 1999-2000.
6. School based expenditure in LA maintained nursery schools was not recorded in 2002-03 and comparable figures are not available for 2003-04 onwards.
7. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 22 February 2010.

Schools: Northampton

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much per head was spent on education for *(a)* primary school children and *(b)* secondary school children in Northampton in (i) 1997, (ii) 2001 and (iii) 2009. [321281]

Mr. Coaker: Figures are not available for the parliamentary constituency of Northampton, North as data are collected at a local authority level. The available information on how much was spent per head in Northamptonshire local authority is shown in the following table. The Department is due to collect the section 251 outturn data relating to the 2009-10 financial year later this year.

School based expenditure per pupil in Northamptonshire local authority for 1997-98, 2001-02 and 2008-09

	1997-98		2001-02			2008-09	
	Pre-primary & primary education	Secondary education	Primary education	Pre-primary & primary education	Secondary education	Primary education	Secondary education
England	1,740	2,360	2,480	2,570	3,150	3,780	4,890
Northamptonshire	1,580	2,250	2,340	2,390	2,940	3,320	4,520

Notes:
1. The financial information used in the answer to this PQ is taken from the Department's s52 data collection.
2. 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the RO1 form collected by the CLG to the Section 52 form from the DCSF. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of consistent financial reporting (CFR) and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables.
3. Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending maintained establishments within each sector and are drawn from the DCSF annual schools census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.
4. Expenditure was not distinguished between the pre-primary and primary sectors until the inception of Section 52 (now section 251) for financial year 1999-2000.
5. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 5 March 2010.

CABINET OFFICE

Children: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many children of school age there have been in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend in each year since 1997. [320603]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many children of school age there have been in (a) Essex and (b) Southend in each year since 1997 (320603).

The attached table shows the number of children aged 5-16 inclusive, calculated for each mid-year from 1997 to 2008, which are the latest population estimates available.

Number of school age children[1] in Essex and Southend in each year since 1997

	Essex	Southend on Sea
1997	193,800	24,100
1998	194,000	24,300
1999	197,500	24,400
2000	199,500	24,300
2001	200,900	24,400
2002	202,100	24,400
2003	203,400	24,300
2004	203,700	24,000
2005	203,400	23,800
2006	202,400	23,400
2007	201,400	23,100
2008	200,100	23,000

[1] Ages five to 16 inclusive.

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Communications Electronic Security Group

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 825W, on Communications Electronic Security Group, for what reason the group has not published an annual report since 2006; and whether Ministers approved the decision not to publish an annual report. [318306]

Chris Bryant: I have been asked to reply.

As an efficiency measure, Communications Electronic Security Group (CESG) have not published an annual report since 2006. There is no statutory requirement for CESG to produce such reports, therefore ministerial approval was not required.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much *(a)* her Department, *(b)* the Charity Commission and *(c)* the Central Office of Information spent on external recruitment consultants in the last year for which figures are available. [315210]

Tessa Jowell: No expenditure was incurred in Cabinet Office. I have asked the chief executives of the Central Office of Information (COI) and the Charity Commission to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 5 March 2010:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question (315210) on how much the Charity Commission spent on external recruitment consultants in the last year for which figures are available.

In the financial year 2008/09, the Charity Commission spent £445,380 on recruitment broken down as follows:

	£
Reed Staffing Services Ltd	11,750
Hays Accountancy Personnel	11,809
Hudson Global Resources Ltd	4,113
Recruitactive	14,138
Red Snapper Recruitment	43,689
Badenoch and Clark	12,013
Artis Recruitment Ltd	14,603
Shi Group Ltd	9,246
TMP(UK) Limited	126,862
Bernard Hodes Group	197,157
Total	445,380

Within the time available, it has not been possible to produce a straightforward correlation between exact posts and expenditure.

In 2008/09, we undertook a number of major recruitment campaigns. These were related to filling posts resulting from decisions to strengthen our compliance function and to make strategic changes in our organisational structure as a result of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review. Many of the posts had specialist requirements and consultants were engaged to help us source the candidates with the right skills and experience.

The majority of expenditure with TMP (UK) Limited and Bernard Hodes Group relates to advertising space in the media: the agencies contract directly with the press for placing job advertisements and then the Commission reimburses the agencies for the costs they incurred. Only a small proportion of the expenditure, therefore, will be the agencies' fee. A complete analysis of the split between agency fees and the cost of job advertisements is not readily available.

A further aspect of the expenditure with the Bernard Hodes Group was investment in a dedicated careers website, which has enabled the Commission to reduce its recruitment budget for 2009/10 to £200,000. The Commission forecast for the current financial year shows that it expects expenditure on recruitment to remain within that budget.

I hope this is helpful.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 4 February 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [315210] asking for the total spent on external recruitment consultants in the last year for which figures are available.

The Central Office of Information spent £49,995 on external recruitment consultants for the financial year 2008/9.

Government Departments: Publicity

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what unsolicited Government publications have been mailed directly to households in England in the last six months; at what cost in each case; and what such mailings are planned between now and June 2010. [320734]

Tessa Jowell: This information is not collected centrally. Each Government Department, agency and NDPB is responsible for setting its own communications priorities and outputs, and each Secretary of State is responsible to Parliament.

Sleeping Rough: Statistics

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent discussions the Office for National Statistics has had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on that Department's methodology for counting rough sleepers. [319637]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As the Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what recent discussions the ONS has had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on that Department's methodology for counting rough sleepers. (319637)

As part of the planning of the field operation for the 2011 Census, ONS officials have been in contact with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to discuss the counting of rough sleepers, and in September 2008, were invited to observe a count of rough sleepers in Westminster. However there have not been recent discussions.

Local authorities are required to conduct their own annual counts if they have more than ten rough sleepers, and so we have been in touch with local authorities to learn how they carry out their counts to see whether any successful procedures used by them could be used or modified for the 2011 Census. We are also planning to liaise directly with local authorities for information about particular sites where rough sleepers might be found, as well as to obtain information on any local homeless charities. We have had a useful meeting with Homeless Link which represents and supports a number of organisations working with the homeless and are planning to meet them again.

Young People: Southend on Sea

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people aged 17 years and under were resident in Southend in each year since 1995. [320602]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people aged 17 years and under were resident in Southend in each year since 1995 (320602).

The attached table shows the number people aged 17 and under, calculated for each mid-year from 1995 to 2008, which are the latest population estimates available.

Number of people aged 17 and under in Southend, in each year since 1995

Southend on Sea	*Thousand*
1995	35,900
1996	36,100
1997	36,700
1998	36,500
1999	36,500
2000	36,200
2001	36,000
2002	36,000
2003	35,600
2004	35,300
2005	35,000
2006	34,800
2007	35,100
2008	35,300

Source:
Office for National Statistics

HEALTH

Abortion

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 29 October 2009, *Official Report,* column 577W, on abortion, how many repeat abortions women aged *(a)* under 20, *(b)* 20 to 24, *(c)* 25 to 29, *(d)* 30 to 34 and *(e)* 35 years old and over had in (i) each primary care trust area and (ii) England in each of the last 10 years. [320876]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is not readily available. However, as soon as this information can be produced, a copy will be placed in the Library.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Crimes of Violence

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many recorded incidents of assaults against NHS accident and emergency staff where alcohol or drug use was thought to be a significant contributing factor, and where the offender was aged 16 years old or under, took place in each of the last five years; [320545]

(2) how many recorded incidents of assaults against NHS accident and emergency staff, where alcohol or drug use was thought to be a significant contributing factor, took place in each of the last five years. [320546]

Ann Keen: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of reported physical assaults against national health service staff in England is contained in the 'Tables Showing Number of Reported Physical Assaults on NHS Staff from 2004-05 to 2007-08, Broken Down by NHS trust/PCT' and 'Tables Showing Number of Reported Physical Assaults on NHS Staff in 2008-09, Broken Down by NHS trust/PCT' which have already been placed in the Library.

The NHS Security Management Service (SMS) can assist employers through guidance on assessing risks and acting to protect staff from assaults and, where incidents do occur, on taking action against offenders. The NHS SMS also works with stakeholders, including the Social Partnership Forum, to promote the safety and security of NHS staff.

Blood: Contamination

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the cost of compensation to people who have contracted *(a)* HIV, *(b)* hepatitis C and *(c)* other infections from NHS-supplied contaminated blood. [320871]

Gillian Merron: The Government currently make ex-gratia payments to those infected with HIV by contaminated national health service blood and blood products through the Macfarlane and Eileen Trusts (in 2010-11 the two Trusts became MFET Ltd), and to those infected with hepatitis-C by contaminated NHS blood and blood products through the Skipton Fund. Based on expenditure in 2009-10, it is estimated that £5.13 million will be made available for non-discretionary payments through MFET Ltd, and £2.47 million will be made available for discretionary payments through MFET Ltd in 2010-11. It is estimated that £5 million will be made available for payments through the Skipton Fund, in 2010-11. To date, nearly £150 million has been paid out through these mechanisms.

Compensation to all those infected with variant Creutzfeldt Jakob disease (vCJD), including those who are thought to have been infected by contaminated blood transfusions, is provided through the vCJD Trust. The size of the Trust fund has been fixed at £67.5 million to compensate the first 250 patients and their families. Up to 5 April 2009, the vCJD trust has disbursed approximately £38 million.

Cancer: Nurses

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2010, *Official Report,* (1) column 755W, on cancer: nurses, how many specialist cancer nurses there are; and how many new posts will be funded from the £20 million expenditure in 2011-12; [320786]

(2) column 743W, on cancer: nurses, how long he estimates it will take to provide training to the additional workforce. [320787]

Ann Keen: There are about 2,300 specialist cancer nurses at present. We are investing £20 million in 2011-12 to work with Macmillan to introduce more specialist cancer nurse posts. In terms of the number of new posts this will fund, we will be looking at possible new models of care, which will have an impact on the number of new nurses needed, but we are likely to need a significant increase in the specialist cancer nurse workforce.

Our plan is to build up the service over a five-year period and our detailed workforce assessment will include reviewing the current provision of training against the differing models and levels of support identified by our work. We will then be able to identify gaps in current provision and work towards appropriate solutions.

Cancer: Palliative Care

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the progress report on the implementation of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on Improving Supportive and Palliative Care for Adults with Cancer to be published. [320960]

Ann Keen: An evaluation to assess whether full implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's Improving Supportive and Palliative Care for Adults guidance has been achieved is under way.

The Cancer Networks have returned their self-assessment information, and there will now be a series of face-to-face interviews with the network nurse directors and strategic health authority cancer leads.

We expect the report to be published by the end of June 2010.

Dementia

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the ratio is of patients on the Quality Outcomes Framework registers to the expected numbers of people with dementia as set out in EuroDem statistics in each region; and what change there has been in that ratio since the publication of the National Dementia Strategy. [320735]

Phil Hope: This information is not available as EuroDem data are not produced or commissioned by the Department.

Dental Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of the population in each strategic health authority (SHA) area had access to NHS dental services *(a)* immediately before the introduction of the 2006 dental contract and *(b)* at the latest date for which information is available; and what percentage of the population in each SHA area will need to be able to access NHS dentistry in March 2011 in order for primary care trusts to fulfil their duty placed upon them to provide access to all who seek it; [320234]

(2) what his Department's latest estimate is of the level of unmet demand for NHS dental services in each strategic health authority area; [320240]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to assist primary care trusts to measure levels of unmet demand for NHS dental services; [320241]

(4) what discussions he has had with NHS managers and health professionals on progress in fulfilling the duty placed upon primary care trusts to provide access to NHS dental services for all who seek it; [320242]

(5) how many primary care trusts *(a)* have conducted a baseline mapping exercise and *(b)* have formulated a delivery plan to deliver access to NHS dental services for all who require it by 2011. [320243]

Ann Keen: The proportion of the population registered with a national health service dentist in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex B of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and by strategic health authority (SHA) where appropriate.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to "registration" is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ("patients seen") over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

Information on the number of patients seen in the previous 24 months as a percentage of the population, in England, is available in Table D2 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics, Quarter 2: 30 September 2009" report. Information is available at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 31 December 2009, and is provided by PCT and SHA.

This report, published on 23 February 2010, has been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0910q2

The commitment to delivering access to NHS dental care for all who actively seek it by March 2011 was set by the NHS in January 2009. It is for each PCT to determine local levels of unmet demand and ensure that sufficient services are commissioned to ensure that they are able to meet the commitment. This commitment is reflected in the NHS Operating Framework.

The Department's Performance Delivery Team have regular reviews with SHAs on progress against all the priorities, including the 2011 dental goal, set out in the NHS Operating Framework. The Dental Access Programme, set up to support the NHS in delivering the 2011 goal, works closely with PCTs to support them in commissioning and managing dental services most appropriately and effectively.

All PCTs have estimated the number of people who would use NHS dental care if it was available and have delivery plans in place to ensure demand is met by, at the latest, March 2011. In the first quarter of 2010-11 the national GP Patient survey will include questions on whether individuals have sought NHS dental care and if so whether they were successful in getting an appointment. The results of the survey will be available later this summer ~~to allow~~ PCTs to refine their plans as necessary. They will be published in July.

Dental Services: Southend on Sea

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have registered with a dental surgeon in Southend in each year since 1997. [320644]

Ann Keen: The number of people registered with a national health service dentist in England, as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex A of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and by strategic health authority (SHA).

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity.

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to "registration" is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ("patients seen") over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

Information on the number of patients seen in the previous 24 months, in England, is available in Table D1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics, Quarter 2: 30 September 2009" report. Information is available at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 31 December 2009 and is provided by PCT and SHA.

This report, published on 23 February 2010, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0910q2.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers in each of the last three years. [321078]

Phil Hope: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Expenditure on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers 2006-07 to 2008-09

Financial year	*Total spend (£)*
2006-07	779,200
2007-08	847,327
2008-09	991,686

Source:
Central Office of Information

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on office refurbishments in each of the last 10 years. [320470]

Phil Hope: In each of the last 10 years the Department's expenditure on refurbishment has been:

	£
1999-2000	1,453,483
2000-01	1,652,456
2001-02	550,000
2002-03	788,000
2003-04	1,113,565
2004-05	963,974
2005-06	5,033,305
2006-07	3,520,407
2007-08	2,628,819
2008-09	627,404

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health from which companies his Department sourced temporary staff in each of the last three years; how many temporary staff his Department employed in each year; and what the monetary value of the contracts with each such company was in each such year. [320019]

Phil Hope: The Department uses the services of a range of suppliers for its temporary workers, through a number of framework agreements. These frameworks include the following, from which the majority of temporary workers are sourced:

1. Buying Solutions Temporary Clerical and Administrative framework.

This framework comprises the following companies: Brook Street (UK) Ltd., Hays Specialist Recruitment, Kelly Services (UK) Ltd., Office Angels Ltd., Reed Specialist Recruitment, Northern Recruitment Group and Employment Plus Ltd.

2. Buying Solutions Specialist Contractors (Project and Programme Management) framework.

This framework comprises the following companies: Acumen Consortium (AMTEC), Badenoch and Clark Ltd., Elan Computing Ltd., Hays Information Technology, Hays Specialist Recruitment, LA International Computer Consultants Ltd., Methods Consulting, NES IT, NetworkersMSB, Parity, Reed Personnel Services plc, SmartSourcing plc and Technology Project Services.

3. Department of Health Clerical and Administrative Communications framework.

This framework comprises the following companies: Badenoch and Clark, Hays, Morgan Hunt, Step Ahead, Stop Gap and Venn Group.

4. Department of Health Information Services Flexible Resource Pool framework.

This framework comprises one company, Sapient Ltd.

In 2008-09, the average number of whole-time equivalent temporary workers employed in the Department, comprising agency workers, contractors and consultants, was 215. Prior to 2008-09, temporary workers were not recorded on the Department's human resources system, therefore this information is not held centrally.

To provide the monetary value of contracts with the suppliers of temporary workers in the last three years would incur disproportionate cost.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* between 18 and 21 years old were prescribed (i) methadone, (ii) subutex and (iii) other synthetic opiates by health professionals in the latest period for which figures are available. [321170]

Gillian Merron: Data on numbers of under-18s and 18 to 21-year-olds prescribed methadone, buprenorphine and other synthetic opiates are not collected centrally.

However there are data on the numbers of young people receiving specific treatment interventions for substance misuse, including pharmacological treatment.

The latest national statistics on young people in drug treatment show that in 2008-09 there were the following numbers of under-18s receiving pharmacological interventions and combinations of this with other interventions.

	Number
Young people specialist pharmacological interventions only	36
Psychosocial and pharmacological interventions only	113
Psychosocial and family work and pharmacological interventions only	14
Psychosocial and harm reduction and pharmacological interventions only	85

Source:
National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA)

Pharmacological interventions are interventions which include prescribing for detoxification, stabilisation and symptomatic relief of substance misuse as well as prescribing of medications to prevent relapse. These would include methadone, buprenorphine and other synthetic opiates.

In total, only 1 per cent. of under-18s in drug treatment are receiving pharmacological interventions.

Data on adult treatment interventions do not record ages and so data for 18 to 21-year-olds are unavailable.

General Practitioners: Southend on Sea

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have registered with general practitioners in Southend in each year since 1997. [320643]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information is not held in the format requested. However, the following data show the number of general practitioners (GP)-registered patients in South East Essex Primary Care Trust (PCT) from 2002 to 2008.

South East Essex PCT

	Number of GP-registered patients
2002	348,369
2003	350,132
2004	352,536
2005	352,449
2006	348,056
2007	351,720
2008	349,740

Notes:
1. South East Essex PCT was created on 1 October 2006 from a complete merger of Castle Point and Rochford PCT and Southend-on-Sea PCT.
2. Figures prior to 2006 are an aggregate of these predecessor organisations. It is impossible to map workforce figures for these organisations prior to the creation of the PCTs in 2002.
3. Figures provided show numbers of patients registered with a GP as at 30 September each year. Data on patient transactions or newly registered patients are not available on the annual GP census.

Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of *(a)* emergency and *(b)* non-emergency treatment of people from (i) each EU member state, (ii) Jersey and (iii) the Isle of Man in each of the last five years. [321192]

Gillian Merron: Figures relating to the cost to the national health service of treating people from Jersey, the Isle of Man and Guernsey are not recorded centrally.

Claims made by the UK for recovering the cost of treatment provided to people from other European Economic Area (EEA) countries are shown in the following table. The claims cannot be broken down by treatment type.

EEA medical costs: claims by UK against member states—actual claims submitted for claim years 2005 to 2009

Claim against:	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Austria	637,046	626,820	229,422	253,174	20,738
Belgium	1,733,938	1,728,295	322,508	384,497	4,641
Bulgaria	—	—	418	2,507	
Cyprus	—	—	382	4,515	
Czech Republic	2,424	6,685	7,520	9,780	103,278
Finland	—	—	148	—	1,873
France	3,442,555	[illegible],476,592	2,436,334	2,468,923	
Germany	1,180,174	1,231,044	1,095,501	1,272,535	198,099
Greece	594,325	52,286	123,989	681,455	1,008,298
Hungary	—	—	10,658	8,219	37,558
Iceland		—	—	24,942	

EEA medical costs: claims by UK against member states—actual claims submitted for claim years 2005 to 2009

Claim against:	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Ireland	18,827,803	18,145,976	20,681,774	22,348,347	28,882,678
Italy	[illegible]831,422	4,928,362	147,251	708,649	1,005,645
Lithuania	—	—	—	1,880	—
Luxembourg	—	—	—	6,323	7,495
Netherlands	2,670,533	1,126,454	6,691	41,428	19,024
Norway	968	—	—	—	—
Poland	2,424	10,445	21,099	45,862	53,169
Portugal	460,030	358,320	22,914	172,331	33,626
Slovenia	45,790	183,600	—	5,991	61,434
Spain	2,551,006	3,024,577	117,857	132,504	124,249
Sweden	1,016,313	1,012,241	252,351	294,953	82,454
Switzerland	62,204	70,608	56,194	53,478	—

Notes:

1. Under European Union regulations claims relate to calendar years.

2. Due to the nature of the EU claims process member states (including the UK) may submit claims in arrears, often several years in arrears, and the settlement process for any one claim may extend over several years. Smaller supplementary claims may also be made, sometimes several years after main claims. Claims totals given are therefore a snapshot based on the current position, and are subject to change.

3. Totals for UK claims will include formula—based claims for temporary visitor costs under bilateral arrangements which provide for reimbursement linked to tourist numbers.

4. UK claims under those bilateral arrangements for years 2007 and later have yet to be submitted. These will be submitted following the publication by the European Commission of the UK's average costs for those years, as data from those average costs are used in the calculation of claims. However, in some cases advance claim payments may be made under bilateral arrangements prior to the submission of the claim. Such advance claim payments will be reflected in the totals included in the table.

Health Services: Young People

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department has provided on the implementation of the proposal in his Department's strategy for children and young people's health that all children with complex health needs should have an individual care plan by 2010; and if he will make a statement; [320594]

(2) what progress his Department has made on the implementation of the proposals in his Department's strategy for children and young people's health that all children with complex health needs should have an individual care plan by 2010; what estimate he has made of the number of children with complex health needs who have been given such a plan; and if he will make a statement. [320595]

Ann Keen: Guidance for commissioners on how to commission personalised care planning for adults and children with long-term conditions was issued in January 2009. The care planning commitment for children with complex needs was affirmed in 'Healthy Lives, Brighter Futures' which emphasises the need to ensure high quality, timely and accessible support and sets out a clear expectation that children's trust partners will provide children and families with accessible and comprehensive information about the services, advice and support available.

Progress is being sustained through the Long Term Conditions programme which includes work to support and accelerate implementation of care planning; elements of which are a Primary Care Service Specification to support commissioners and to incentivise delivery in primary care, and a leaflet for families explaining the benefits of care planning. Assessing the demand and providing for individual care plans for children with complex conditions is for local decision based on local assessment of need.

Infant Mortality: Methadone

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many newborn baby deaths were related to the use of methadone by the mother in the latest period for which figures are available. [321171]

Gillian Merron: These data are not available in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However, the Department supports the national programme for substance abuse deaths (npSAD), currently run by the International Centre for Drug Policy at St. Georges, University of London. This programme collects and analyses data on drug related deaths in the United Kingdom, and can be found at the following website at:

www.sgul.ac.uk/about-st-georges/divisions/faculty-of-medicine-and-biomedical-sciences/mental-health/icdp/our-work-programmes/national-programme-on-substance-abuse-deaths

Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [320419]

Phil Hope: The Department does not hold a central record of the information requested. A survey to gather the necessary information from the Department's directorates would incur disproportionate cost.

NHS: Private Sector

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the NHS of an entitlement for a patient to be treated privately if not treated within 18 weeks in the first year of operation of such an entitlement. [320877]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As detailed in the impact assessment

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_108091.pdf

relating to the consultation on new patient rights, the proposals are largely cost neutral. If the proposed right is brought forward we would expect any alternative providers to provide services at the national health service tariff.

A copy of the assessment has already been placed in the Library.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable has been set for the publication of Professor Ian Gilmore's report on prescription charges for those with long-term conditions. [321179]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Professor Gilmore has submitted his report on exempting people with long-term conditions from prescription charges to the Department. The recommendations are being considered, and we intend to publish our response shortly.

Primary Care Trusts

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts there were in 2005. [320973]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There were 303 primary care trusts in 2005. This number reduced to 152 from 1 October 2006.

Private Finance Initiative

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department will have to provide to fund all existing private finance initiative and public-private partnership contracts in each of the next 10 years. [320566]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There are many hundreds of contracts negotiated annually between national health service bodies and private sector suppliers for a full range of services and equipment that involve elements of public-private partnerships (PPPs).

Information is collected centrally for the three major areas of PPP contracts—private finance initiative (PFI) schemes, local improvement finance trusts (LIFT) and independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs). The following table shows the unitary and lease payments for PFI and LIFT schemes respectively for the next 10 financial years in nominal terms (i.e. uprated annually for retail prices index inflation of 2.5 per cent.; these are only approximate profiles as the LIFT payments are collected by calendar year not financial). From the information collected centrally it is not possible to express the ISTC payments on an annualised basis over the same period, but from a calculation of the total mean monthly payments, ISTC contract payments in 2010 will total approximately £469 million.

£ million

	PFI payments (by financial year	*LIFT lease payments (by calendar year)*
2010-11	1,249	206
2011-12	1,306	211
2012-13	1,407	217
2013-14	1,579	222
2014-15	1,619	228
2015-16	1,659	233
2016-17	1,700	236
2017-18	1,743	245
2018-19	1,748	251
2019-20	1,831	257

As total NHS planned resources for 2010-11 are £105.8 billion, PFI payments will represent approximately 1.2 per cent. of the total, LIFT approximately 0.2 per cent. and ISTCs 0.4 per cent. As payments rise with the rate of inflation, as demonstrated by the tables, we expect that NHS PPP/PFI contributions will remain at the level of less than 2 per cent. of the total budget for the life of the contracts. The phase 1 ISTC schemes have reached, or are reaching the end of their contracted periods and are being renegotiated.

Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust

Jane Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects to make a decision on the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals Trust's building project; and if he will make a statement; [320865]

(2) what recent representations he has received on the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals Trust's proposed building project; and if he will make a statement. [320866]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Outline Business Case (OBC) for the £453 million private finance initiative proposal to redevelop Royal Liverpool University Hospital is currently with the Department for approval. Subject to approval by departmental officials and Ministers the OBC will then go to the Treasury for approval.

Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital

Jane Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects to make a decision on the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital building project; and if he will make a statement; [320867]

(2) what recent representations he has received on the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital building project; and if he will make a statement. [320868]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust went to the market for its (approximately) £200 million private finance initiative scheme for a new children's hospital through the launch of a notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union* on 14 January 2010. This is the beginning of the procurement phase to select a preferred bidder to work with, sign a contract and proceed to construction, subject to appropriate approvals.

Syringes

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many young people aged *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* between 18 and 21 years old have been provided with needle exchange services in the latest period for which figures are available. [321169]

Gillian Merron: Information on the number of people supplied with clean needles is not collected centrally, by either the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse or the Department.

Whittington Hospital: Accident and Emergency Departments

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with London North Central Health Authorities on the future provision of accident and emergency services at Whittington Hospital; and what information has been provided to him on the future of the service. [321069]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 26 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 807W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on office refurbishments in each of the last 10 years. [320509]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) recorded spend on office refurbishments and security upgrades by calendar year from 2002 until 2008, from which time this information has been recorded by financial year. Amounts spent on refurbishments and security upgrades for both UK and overseas offices, since 2002, are provided in the following table:

	£
Calendar year	
2002	3,061,033
2003	10,970,347
2004	4,533,262
2005	2,625,477
2006	2,257,548
2007	1,753,239
2008	1,090,392
Financial year	
2008-09	1,186,205
2009-10	1,482,968

Information on spend prior to 2002 cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* disciplinary and *(b)* capability procedures have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed in his Department in each of the last five years; how much time on average was taken to complete each type of procedure in each such year; how many and what proportion of his Department's staff were subject to each type of procedure in each such year; and how many and what proportion of each type of procedure resulted in the dismissal of the member of staff. [320629]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has initiated and completed one capability procedure in the last five years. To provide further information on this procedure would breach confidentiality.

Details of the number of disciplinary procedures which have been initiated and completed; the number and proportion of staff subject to disciplinary procedures; and the number and proportion of disciplinary procedures which resulted in the dismissal of the member of staff in each of the last five years are provided in the following table.

	Procedures initiated	*Number of staff*	*Proportion of staff (Percentage)*	*Procedures completed*[1]	*Number of dismissals*	*Proportion of disciplinary cases resulting in dismissal (Percentage)*
2006	21	20	0.70	13	5	25
2007	31	29	1.10	24	9	31
2008	23	23	0.90	16	5	22
2009	18	18	0.70	11	3	17
2010[2]	3	3	0.10	1	0	0

[1] Disciplinary procedures that have not been completed are either ongoing cases; cases that have been dropped due to there being no case to answer; or cases which did not result in formal action under the disciplinary procedures.

[2] To date.

The average time taken to complete these disciplinary procedures was 46 days. The procedure is initiated when the individual is issued with the invitation to attend a disciplinary meeting and includes any appeal process that may take place.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information technology projects initiated by his Department were cancelled prior to completion in the last 12 months; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [320432]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not cancelled any information technology projects prior to completion in the last 12 months.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 103W, on departmental marketing how much his Department and agencies have spent on advertising, marketing, public relations and publicity in relation to the *(a)* Real Help Now and *(b)* Building Britain's Future themed campaign to date. [320455]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not spent any money on advertising, marketing, public relations and publicity in relation to Real Help Now or Building Britain's Future.

DFID has no agencies.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was paid in reimbursable expenses to special advisers in his Department in each of the last five years. [320482]

Mr. Michael Foster: This information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

Fairtrade Initiative

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution his Department is making to Fairtrade Fortnight. [320286]

Mr. Thomas: I refer the hon. Lady to the oral answer provided by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development Douglas Alexander on 3 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 930.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution his Department has made to Fairtrade Fortnight. [320951]

Mr. Thomas: I refer the hon. Lady to the oral answer provided by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development Douglas Alexander on 3 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 930.

Haiti: Earthquakes

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken together with British charities to co-ordinate the provision of assistance to Haiti. [320288]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) maintains a close relationship with British non-governmental organisations. Since the earthquake in Haiti I have had four meetings with civil society groups to discuss how the UK can best provide assistance. One of the meetings was also attended by Sir John Holmes, United Nations Emergency Relief Co-ordinator, who is leading the co-ordination of the international relief effort in Haiti.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff his Department and its agencies have appointed who were later discovered to be illegal immigrants since 2005. [320446]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not appointed any staff members who were later discovered to be illegal immigrants.

Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [320542]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not funded foreign language coaching for a Minister in the last 12 months.

DFID does not hold a central record of the number of staff who have received coaching in a foreign language. Requirements for language training are assessed by individual Departments and overseas offices and are funded by departmental training budgets. It is not possible to provide this information without incurring disproportionate costs.

Overseas Aid: HIV Infection

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to his Department's announcement of 4 November 2009 on funding for HIV prevention, whether the £220 million for HIV and neglected diseases health research was part of the £6 billion allocation for health systems announced as part of its HIV/AIDS strategy. [320295]

Mr. Michael Foster: The £220 million for HIV and neglected diseases health research announcement on 4 November 2009 is part of the £6 billion allocation for health systems announced in the Department for International Development's (DFID's) HIV/AIDS strategy.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to his Department's announcement of 4 November 2009 on funding for health research into HIV and neglected diseases, how much of the sum committed has been spent to date; and on which projects. [320296]

Mr. Michael Foster: To date, the Department for International Development (DFID) has committed a total of £115 million to the following projects for the period 2008-13:

£40 million to the International Aids Vaccine Initiative (IAVI);

£20 million to the International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM);

£18 million to the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi);

£18 million to the TB Alliance (TBA);

£19 million to Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV).

Of this total committed, £35.5 million has been spent so far.

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the extent of starvation in refugee camps at Afgooye, Somalia; and what steps his Department is taking to provide humanitarian assistance. [320519]

Mr. Thomas: The United Nations estimates that 366,000 internally displaced people (IDP) are living in refugee camps at Afgooye and that one in four children in these camps are affected by high rates of chronic malnutrition.

The Department for International Development (DFID) will spend at least £11.5 million on humanitarian assistance in Somalia in the current financial year. DFID is a major contributor to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund which disbursed £16.9 million to Somalia in 2009, and to the European Community Humanitarian Office which disbursed £19.6 million in 2009.

Trade Unions

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many days staff of his Department spent on trade union activity in the latest year for which figures are available; and what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of such activity. [320617]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has one member of full-time staff allocated to undertake trade union activities. The salary of that staff member is in the range from £30,000 to £35,000 a year.

In addition, all trade union members are allowed a reasonable amount of time to attend official union meetings. DFID does not hold a central record of the total time spent on such activity.

Trades Union Congress

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department and its agencies have given to the Trades Union Congress since 1997-98; and for what purposes. [320490]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided £2.58 million to the Trades Union Congress (TUC) in the period from 2002-03 to date. This support was made available on the basis that it would be used solely for development assistance purposes as defined in the International Development Act (2002) and has enabled the TUC to work with unions abroad in support of basic political freedoms in countries such as Iraq and Zimbabwe.

Information prior to this is not held on current financial systems and cannot be retrieved without incurring disproportionate costs.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Baptist Union of Great Britain

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if she will meet representatives of the Baptist Union of Great Britain to discuss the effects of section 75 of the Pension Act 2004 on their organisation; [320872]

(2) when she intends to reply to the letters dated 15 January and 9 February 2010 from the hon. Member for Wantage about the effect of section 75 of the Pension Act 2004 on the Baptist Union of Great Britain; [320873]

(3) if she will make an assessment of the effects of section 75 of the Pension Act 2004 on the Baptist Union of Great Britain; and if she will make a statement. [321172]

Angela Eagle: I replied to the hon. Member on 6 March 2010.

Where an employer ceases to participate actively in a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme, section 75 of the Pensions Act 1995 provides that it may be required to pay an "employer debt". This is a sum of money payable to the pension scheme. The policy behind the employer debt requirements is to provide protection for pension scheme members after a sponsoring employer ceases to participate.

The Baptist Union of Great Britain has particular concerns about the way that section 75 applies to their pension scheme. I have therefore asked my officials to meet representatives of the Baptist Union to discuss their concerns. They will report to me about the outcome of the meeting.

Cold Weather Payments: Highlands of Scotland

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cold weather payments have been made and how much has been paid out to households in the Highlands in winter 2009-10. [320191]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 4 March 2010]:* The information requested is not available for the Highlands. Cold weather payment information is available only by weather station. There are a number of weather stations that cover the Highlands area and some of these also cover areas that are not part of the Highlands.

For winter 2009-10, for Great Britain, to 1 March an estimated 11.8 million cold weather payments worth an estimated £295 million have been authorised. Payments authorised have not necessarily already been paid.

Source: DWP records of triggers to weather stations up to and including 1 March 2010 and estimates of potential qualifiers by weather station.

Departmental Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department has spent on *(a)* print, *(b)* online, *(c)* television and *(d)* radio advertising in each of the last five years; how much has been spent on advertising in 2009-10 to date; and what percentage of advertising expenditure in each year was managed by the Central Office of Information. [309899]

Jim Knight: Government policies and programmes affect the lives of millions of people and in order for them to work they must be communicated effectively. However, this has also to be done with cost efficiency in mind and there are strict rules to ensure value for money on Government advertising. The Department for Work and Pensions provides services for over 20 million people, from helping the most vulnerable pensioners to getting people back to work, and communications activity is designed to raise awareness of these vital services.

Advertising spend within the DWP covers both campaign advertising and recruitment advertising. For 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 data are only available to confirm overall media spend by the Department via COI. For 2008-09 data are only available to confirm media spend via COI and by direct advertising. Fully audited figures for spending on advertising for 2009-10 are not available at this time.

£million

	COI	*Direct*
2005-06	11.211	[1]—
2006-07	6.579	[1]—
2007-08	9.179	[1]—
2008-09	9.542	2.785

[1] Data unavailable or not held centrally for these specific years and it would incur disproportionate cost in the gathering of these data.

Note:

All costs are exclusive of VAT, COI fees, advertising rebates and audit adjustments and are for media spend only. They also exclude the cost of creative work, research, production of supporting materials or launch events.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many bids have been made for work choice programmes; and in how many of those bids sub-contractors have been streamlined. [320077]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 2 March 2010]:* A total of 120 invitation to tender bids for the work choice programme have been submitted by 23 organisations. The supply chain associated with these submissions comprises of 91 organisations from the public sector, 46 organisations from the private sector and 92 organisations from the third sector.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether her Department holds for benchmarking purposes information on the operation of the Prime Contractor model in *(a)* Australia and *(b)* the Netherlands. [320103]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 2 March 2010]:* The Department does not use information on the prime contractor models in Australia or the Netherlands to carry out systematic benchmarking exercises. Information on these and other models is referred to on an ongoing basis to inform the implementation and evaluation of the DWP Commissioning Strategy.

Departmental Drinking Water

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on bottled drinking water in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [313030]

Jim Knight: Because bottled water for meetings was previously sourced from a variety of contracts, and not accounted for separately, the amount spent in earlier years could be provided only at a disproportionate cost. The Department stopped the provision of brought in bottled water for meetings in July 2008. Since then the Department has been using an on-site system in three large sites, which bottles tap water and uses re-usable bottles. The cost of this system from July 2008 to March 2009 was approximately £18,000.

Departmental Energy

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the estimated *(a)* amount and *(b)* cost was of energy used in her Department and its agencies in each year since 1997; what proportion of the energy used was generated from renewable sources in each of those years; and if she will make a statement. [317233]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table gives the amount of total energy consumed (electricity, fossil fuels and gas), the cost of that energy for each of the years 1999-2009 and the total electricity consumed (standard and renewable), for the Department for Work and Pensions and its Executive agencies, as reported in the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) annual reports, and their predecessors.

Figures are only available from 1999-2000—the baseline year for the current carbon reduction targets. The first full year of DWP operations was 2002-03, following its creation in June 2001. Figures for earlier years are not available.

The term renewable energy refers only to electricity, which is shown as a percentage of the total electricity used in the following table. During the last year the proportion of renewable energy procured decreased due to increasing demand across the energy sector.

	Total energy (kWh)	*Cost (£ million)*	*Total electricity (kWh)*	*Renewable electricity (percentage)*
2002-03	715,753,818	19.1	290,690,818	20.7
2003-04	730,615,118	20.4	329,573,118	33.1
2004-05	757,031,312	24.5	328,376,312	60.5
2005-06	702,573,363	29.6	327,460,763	62.9
2006-07	720,001,384	32.7	328,992,384	63.0
2007-08	598,909,215	29.7	287,936,215	79.7
2008-09	583,484,876	38.0	274,867,356	48.4

The Department will continue to work, in conjunction with its estates partners and other key stakeholders, to reduce its energy consumption and achieve its carbon budget. It will continue to source renewable energy as part of the pan-government energy procurement contracts which currently require 10 per cent. of energy from renewable sources coupled with 15 per cent. of energy from good quality combined heat and power.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department plans to take to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010. [319105]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP pays particular attention to any out-of-hours consumption of energy and we have registered to take part in this year's Earth Hour event, as we did in 2009. We will be working with our Estates Partner to ensure that the lights are off in our buildings from 8.30 pm on Saturday 27 March for one hour. We will also promote this event internally to our staff.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on *(a)* strategy and planning, *(b)* design and build, *(c)* hosting and infrastructure, *(d)* content provision and *(e)* testing and evaluation for her Department's websites in each of the last three years; and what budget has been allocated for such activities in 2009-10. [309904][1]

Jim Knight: Websites managed within the Department include:

DWP Corporate
Jobcentre Plus
The Pension Service (this site closed September 2009)
Child Support Agency
Directgov (cross government site)
Now Let's Talk Money
Independent Living Funds
NDDP Job Broker Search
Office for Disability Issues
European Social Fund
Ethnic Minority Employment Task force
The Pensions Advisory Service
Industrial Injuries Advisory Council
Social Security Advisory Committee
Personal Accounts Delivery Authority
Working for Health
CMEC
CM Options
Remploy
Pension Protection Fund
The Pensions Ombudsman
Pensions Protection Fund Ombudsman
Pensions Regulator
Independent Case Examiner
Health and Safety Executive

Ongoing creation, development and maintenance of websites managed by the Department is mainly carried out by the Department's own in-house digital media team and in-house maintenance team. It is not possible for us to extract and quantify previous or forecast costs for the all the categories requested, in particular strategy and content provision, because in most cases, staff working across these areas are engaged in more than one role and/or website. Similarly, our hosting and infrastructure costs form part of a wider departmental IT contract.

We can provide figures for the redevelopment of the DWP website and the Office for Disability Issues website as we ran separate projects with separate budgets within the last three years. The costs quoted are for design and build work only and are not an annual cost.

	Website	*Cost (£000)*
2008-09	DWP Corporate	216
2007-08	Office for Disability Issues	147

There are no plans to spend money on design and build in 2009-10 for these two websites.

Figures available for testing and evaluation are:

		Cost (£000)
Website		
2008-09	The Pension Service	21
2008-09	Jobcentre Plus	20
Planned spend		
2009-10	The Pension Service	19
2009-10	Jobcentre Plus	13
2009-10	DWP Corporate	3
2009-10	Office for Disability Issues	6

There is no separate Directgov budget for the elements specified.

We are working with Cabinet Office to implement a standardised method for quantifying website costs across Government in line with Central Office of Information guidelines. This is in response to a Public Accounts Committee recommendation. These costs will be available from April 2010 onwards as per the timetable.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent staff of each grade are employed by her Department to assist special advisers. [321146]

Jonathan Shaw: There are two full-time equivalent staff employed to assist the special advisors, one executive officer and one higher executive officer.

Departmental Paper

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* brands of (i) paper and (ii) paper products her Department uses; and what her Department's policy is on the procurement of those materials. [320022]

Jonathan Shaw: Either directly or through their subcontractors—Xerox (UK) Ltd. provide DWP with the following paper and paper products:

Core print—forms and leaflets

Configurable print—letterheads, complement slips etc.

Marketing and publicity—promotional posters, campaign support products

Secure print—girocheques and payable orders

Cut paper—photocopier and printer paper (to support desk top, local and bulk copying)

Stationery products—e.g. diaries, envelopes, notebooks etc.

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[1] *[Official Report, 29 March 2010, Vol. 508, c. 5MC.]*

At present, cut sheet papers are branded primarily by Banner, M Real, Steinbeis, Datacopy, Hewlett Packard and Xerox. From April 2010, DWP will move to a single brand of 100 per cent. recycled cut paper—Xerox Recycled.

The majority of DWP forms are currently produced on a 100 per cent. recycled paper branded Releaf.

To maximise value for money, the Department's policy is to use only products through the Xerox contract.

Other paper products are provided through other central contracts:

Letters to DWP customers and other internal documentation are provided by Hewlett Packard Enterprise Services (HPES). The sourcing of the paper products under this arrangement is determined by HPES and not the Department.

Additional promotional products (outwith the Xerox arrangements) are provided through COI and range of communications framework suppliers. Under these arrangements, the suppliers are responsible for the sourcing of their own paper and paper products.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claimants of employment and support allowance had attended their first interview with a Jobcentre Plus personal adviser before attending their first appointment with a medical professional working for ATOS in the latest period for which information is available. [319978]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 2 March 2010]:* The information requested is not publicly available and could be made so only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her latest assessment is of the administrative efficiency of the referral process for incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance claimants to Pathways to Work providers; whether it is the practice of Jobcentre Plus that its staff may not send client referral information electronically to providers; and what discussions she has had on introduction of IT arrangements to assist Jobcentre Plus with the administration of referrals to Pathways to Work providers. [319979]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 2 March 2010]:* When provider led Pathways to Work was first introduced the Department did not have a system in place which allowed the secure electronic transfer of customer data to external organisations.

The Department ensures that safeguards are built into the process to protect personal customer details by restricting the number of individual customer details. In some areas, Jobcentre Plus conducts the initial interview on provider premises. Where this happens the referral is immediately handed to the provider.

The Department is now in the process of rolling out a more efficient and secure IT based solution to refer customers from Jobcentre Plus to external providers for all commercial employment programmes. The Provider Referrals and Payments (PRaP) System began operating in October 2009 in support of the flexible new deal programme. At the point of contract award or renewal it is intended that all commercial employment programmes will adopt the PRaP IT solution both for referring individual customers and to make the associated payments to providers.

Employment Schemes

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when all prime contractors for the new Work Choice contracts will be informed of the outcome of their bid; what recent progress has been made in negotiations with potential Work Choice subcontractors; and if she will make a statement. [320178]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 3 March 2010]:* Following the completion of the invitation to tender stage of the procurement exercise for this programme, the intention is to notify all those organisations designated as preferred bidders by 5 March. Unsuccessful bidders will be notified during week commencing 15 March.

The sourcing team responsible for the procurement of Work Choice will be taking forward post tender discussions with the designated preferred bidders with the intention of agreeing and awarding contracts by 30 April 2010.

Although we evaluate the subcontractor supply chains, we do not directly get involved in subcontractor negotiations.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether she has set a target time in which participants in the Work Choice programme move into unsupported employment; whether an individual target direction is determined for each programme participant; and in what ways a participant's individual circumstances are taken into account in Work Choice programme timetables. [320179]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 3 March 2010]:* There are no individual time constraints in which Work Choice participants are expected to move into unsupported employment. We will expect providers to focus on helping customers progress into sustainable open employment, wherever possible.

Support provided by Work Choice will be tailored to the individual needs of the customer. We want customers who need supported employment to get more consistent, quality support that helps them progress at work and ultimately into unsupported employment, where appropriate.

Work Choice providers and employers will work with the customer and agree an individual development plan, which is at the heart of their relationship. It is a living document, which will be reviewed regularly and adapted to the changing needs of the customer over what may be a long-term relationship, in order to help them progress in their career and stay in work.

Housing Benefit: Travelling People

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will make it her policy that the absence of planning permission is taken into account when awarding housing benefit to those residing in dwellings on Traveller sites. [319747]

Helen Goodman: Housing benefit is available to secure the occupation of a person's home by providing help towards the rent that person is liable to pay on it. Where that home is a caravan or mobile home it is possible that a person may have two separate liabilities to pay rent, one for the caravan or mobile home and one for the site on which it stands. Help from benefit is available toward both.

As long as the person has a properly enforceable liability to pay rent for their caravan or mobile home, a claim for benefit would be dealt with in the normal way.

This would be less clear cut if a charge was being made for a pitch fee where the site has no planning permission. It might be that without planning permission the pitch fee would be unenforceable and therefore would not be eligible for housing benefit. If that is the case then no help would be given toward any pitch fee that may be charged.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the results were of occupational analysis of the jobseeker's allowance claimant count undertaken by her Department in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2009. [319336]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for occupational analysis of the jobseeker's allowance undertaken in (a) 2006 and (b) 2009. (319336)

The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) is taken from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. Analysis is published each month on the number of claimants of JSA by the claimant's usual occupation and sought occupation. Occupations are defined following the Standard Occupational Classification 2000.

A table showing the number of people claiming JSA by the usual and sought occupation of claimants in December 2006 and December 2009 has been prepared. As the information requested is quite extensive, a copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Pension Credit: Hampstead

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners applied for pension tax credit in Hampstead and Highgate constituency up to 2008; and how many such applications have been refused. [304129]

Angela Eagle: Information about the total number of claims including unsuccessful claims is not available. The information that is available is shown in the following table:

Successful applications to pension credit in Hampstead and Highgate parliamentary constituency

	Number of successful new claims (Thousand)
2003	
November	3.28
2004	
February	0.19
May	0.23
August	0.18
November	0.16
2005	
February	0.11
May	0.11
August	0.10
November	0.10
2006	
February	0.07
May	0.10
August	0.09
November	0.08
2007	
February	0.08
May	0.09
August	0.10
November	0.10
2008	
February	
May	0.09
August	0.08
November	0.10
2009	
February	0.07
May	0.10

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding, and exclude some short-term flows not captured by the relevant scans.

2. The successful new claims is the total number of awards of benefit that commenced within the quarter.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Pension Service: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will make it her policy to ensure that her Department continues to offer face-to-face Pension Service advice surgeries in Torquay and Paignton. [320589]

Angela Eagle: PDCS Local Service provides a face to face service for vulnerable pension age and disabled customers who are unable to access services through the normal channels such as by telephone or post. Local Service operates in the community across all of England, Scotland and Wales, and provides home visits to customers for information and advice, and help with applications to benefits and other complementary services.

Local Service works closely with partners, such as local authorities and voluntary sector organisations to improve customer service delivery within local communities, through the creation of designated alternative offices, under the Social Security (Claims and Payments and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2003, and appointment based information points in community locations.

Age Concern in Torquay is a designated alternative office. In addition to the advice and information service offered to pensioners by Age Concern they are also able to accept claims from people aged 60 or over for social security benefits, or from a person under age 60 for disability and carers benefits.

With the opening of a 'Community One Stop hub' in Paignton in the autumn, which will offer joined up services from a number of stakeholders, Local Service will work with partners to offer this as an alternative appointment venue for vulnerable customers.

By working in partnership in the community Local Service will continue to provide face to face services to vulnerable customers in the community of Torbay.

Personal Accounts Delivery Authority: Tata Consultancy Services

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many bidders other than Tata Consultancy Services there were for the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority contract for scheme administration services; and how much her Department will pay to Tata Consultancy Services under the contract. [320942]

Angela Eagle: Following publication of the contract notice in the Official Journal of the European Union in January 2009, the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority (PADA) received 56 expressions of interest.

Following receipt of pre-qualification questionnaires, four organisations were invited to participate in competitive dialogue. As the competitive dialogue progressed, three of these bidders decided to withdraw. This left Tata Consultancy Services Ltd., which had progressively demonstrated during the competition that it was a strong bidder. This was confirmed by its final bid, which after a rigorous evaluation was found to fully meet PADA's delivery requirements at a good price for NEST's future members.

Any payments due under the contract will be met by PADA, until the organisation is wound up on 5 July 2010. Payments will then be made by the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST). NEST will be self-financing in the long-term. This means that ultimately, all of the costs of establishing and operating NEST, including all payments due under this contract, will be met by NEST's members.

Social Security Advisory Committee: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Social Security Advisory Committee spent on *(a)* remuneration for (i) the Chairman and (ii) Committee members, *(b)* travel expenses, *(c)* subsistence, *(d)* accommodation and *(e)* hospitality in (A) 2005-06, (B) 2006-07, (C) 2007-08 and (D) 2008-09; and how much she expects to be spent by the Committee for such purposes in 2009-10. [302791]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* Information is not available in the format requested. Such information[1] as is available is in the table.

£

SSAC expenditure	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10 estimate*
Chairman's salary	20,500	21,000	21,500	21,900	22,200
Members' fees	[2]—	46,600	56,300	78,100	86,300
Travel expenses[3]	21,400	19,700	25,500	26,800	28,800
Subsistence	[4]3,900	[5]2,800	[5]1,800	[5]2,700	2,400
Accommodation	[4]—	1,500	1,200	2,100	4,200
Hospitality	0	0	0	0	0

[1] All figures except hospitality rounded to the nearest £100.

[2] Cost of members' fees cannot be disaggregated from other elements of SSAC's running costs.

[3] Includes the chairman's, members' and staff travel costs.

[4] Includes the chairman's, members' and staff subsistence and accommodation costs.

[5] Includes subsistence costs for the chairman, members' and staff.

Social Security Benefits: Angus

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Angus constituency are in receipt of *(a)* attendance allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* jobseeker's allowance; and what the average weekly amount received is in each case. [318799]

Jonathan Shaw: Attendance allowance provides an important non-contributory, non-income-related and tax free cash contribution towards the extra costs of severely disabled people. The Government are committed to providing real help to disabled people, particularly through the early stages of economic recovery. This is why the Chancellor announced in the December 2009 pre-Budget report that attendance allowance would be increased by 1.5 per cent.—bringing forward help when it is most needed. Without this commitment, the recent negative growth in the retail prices index would have meant that this benefit would not have increased in 2010.

From 27 October 2008 we replaced incapacity benefits for new customers with the employment and support allowance and a revised medical assessment which focuses on what people can do, rather than what they cannot.

The information requested is in the table.

Number of cases in payment and average weekly payment of attendance allowance, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and jobseeker's allowance in the Angus constituency in August 2009

	Number of cases in payment	Average weekly amount paid (£)
Attendance allowance	2,360	61.20
Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance	2,370	93.59
Jobseeker's allowance	1,540	63.08

Notes:
1. Benefit recipients are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Average weekly amounts are rounded to the nearest penny.
3. Benefit recipients receiving more than one of these benefits will be counted under each benefit.
4. Attendance allowance totals exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
5. These data do not include claimants of employment and support allowance introduced from October 2008
6. All data refer to benefit recipients and therefore will exclude credits only cases.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Social Security Benefits: Dundee

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Dundee East constituency are in receipt of *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* jobseeker's allowance; and what the average weekly payment to such people is in each case. [319601]

Jonathan Shaw: From 27 October 2008 we replaced incapacity benefits for new customers with the employment and support allowance and a revised medical assessment which focuses on what people can do, as well as what they cannot.

The information requested is in the following table:

Number of cases in payment and average weekly payment of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and jobseeker's allowance in the Dundee, East constituency in August 2009

Benefit	Number of cases in payment	Average weekly amount paid (£)
Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance	2,790	94.43
Jobseeker's allowance	1,900	62.64

Notes:
1. Number of cases in payment rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Average weekly amount paid is rounded to the nearest penny.
3. Claimants receiving more than one of these benefits are counted under each benefit.
4. The data do not include claimants of employment and support allowance introduced from October 2008.
5. All data refer to benefit recipients and will therefore exclude credits only and nil payment cases.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Yorkshire East of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 303-04W, on social security benefits: fraud, when she expects her Department to publish the results of its voice risk analysis pilot schemes; and when she expects to decide whether to roll-out such schemes nationally. [319460]

Helen Goodman: Department analysts are currently evaluating the Voice Risk Analysis pilot results. Work is expected to be completed in the next few months. Next steps will be considered once the evaluation has been completed.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in respect of how many people allegations of benefit fraud were investigated in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* the Highlands and *(c)* England and Wales in each of the last three years; how many such people were subsequently (i) cautioned and (ii) prosecuted and convicted of such offences in each such year; and how many of those convicted in each such year received a (A) custodial sentence, (B) community sentence and (C) discharge. [320126]

Helen Goodman: The available information is in the tables:

Number of investigations

	National	Scotland	England and Wales
2006-07	128,443	—	—
2007-08	194,549	—	—
2008-09	156,089	14,574	141,515

Notes:
1. The number of people investigated and cautioned was collected on a national basis only for 2006-07 and 2007-08 and cannot therefore be provided for Scotland, the Highlands, England and Wales.
2. The information requested is available for 2008-09. However, figures for the Highlands cannot be separated out and are included within those for Scotland.

Source:
Fraud and Error by Sector (FIBS) and Fraud Referral and Intervention Management system (FRAIMS).

Number of cautions

	National	Scotland	England and Wales
2006-07	11,976	—	—
2007-08	12,821	—	—
2008-09	14,320	1,738	12,582

Notes: 1. The number of people investigated and cautioned was collected on a national basis only for 2006-07 and 2007-08 and cannot therefore be provided for Scotland, the Highlands, England and Wales. 2. The information requested is available for 2008-09. However, figures for the Highlands cannot be separated out and are included within those for Scotland. *Source:* Fraud and Error by Sector (FIBS) and Fraud Referral and Intervention Management system (FRAIMS).

Numbers of convictions, custodial sentences, community sentences and discharges in England and Wales

	Conviction	Custodial sentence	Community sentence	Discharge
2006-07	6,756	613	2,387	1,732
2007-08	7,628	511	2,703	2,202
2008-09	6,581	463	2,442	1,516

Notes:
1. The number of people convicted and receiving a custodial/community sentence and discharge cannot be broken down for England and Wales.
2. The figures provided for convictions do not necessarily relate to the investigations undertaken in the years mentioned above because of the time taken to progress cases through the courts.

Source:
Sol Prosecution's Division Computerised Information System.

Numbers of convictions, custodial sentences, community sentences and discharges in Scotland

	Conviction	Custodial sentence	Community sentence	Discharge
2006-07	105	3	28	2

Numbers of convictions, custodial sentences, community sentences and discharges in Scotland

	Conviction	*Custodial sentence*	*Community sentence*	*Discharge*
2007-08	117	11	77	5
2008-09	119	4	65	0

Note:
In Scotland, responsibility for prosecutions lies with the Procurator Fiscal. The figures represent cases where information on outcomes has been provided by the Procurator Fiscal to the Department for Work and Pensions and recorded on our systems. Consequently, they may not be complete. The figures for the Highlands cannot be separated out and are included within those for Scotland.
Source:
Fraud and Error by Sector (FIBS) and Fraud Referral and Intervention Management system (FRAIMS).

Social Security Benefits: Moray

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Moray constituency are in receipt of *(a)* attendance allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* jobseeker's allowance; and what the average weekly payment is in each case. [318828]

Jonathan Shaw: Attendance allowance provides an important non-contributory, non-income-related and tax free cash contribution towards the extra costs of severely disabled people.

The Government are committed to providing real help to disabled people, particularly through the early stages of economic recovery. This is why the Chancellor announced in the December 2009 pre-Budget report that attendance allowance would be increased by 1.5 per cent., bringing forward help when it is most needed. Without this commitment, the recent negative growth in the retail prices index would have meant that this benefit would not have increased in 2010.

From 27 October 2008 we replaced incapacity benefits for new customers with the employment and support allowance and a revised medical assessment which focuses on what people can do, rather than what they cannot.

The information requested is in the table.

Number of cases in payment and average weekly payment of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and jobseeker's allowance in the Moray constituency in August 2009

	Number of cases in payment	*Average weekly amount paid (£)*
Attendance allowance	1,910	60.00
Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance	2,140	93.66
Jobseeker's allowance	1,070	63.44

Notes:
1. Benefit recipients are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Average weekly amounts are rounded to the nearest penny.
3. Benefit recipients receiving more than one of these benefits will be counted under each benefit.
4. Attendance allowance totals exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
5. The data do not include claimants of employment and support allowance introduced from October 2008.
6. All data refer to benefit recipients and therefore will exclude credits only cases.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Social Security Benefits: Na h-Eileanan an Iar

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of incapacity benefit in Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average weekly payment made in such benefit was in that constituency in that period. [319066]

Jonathan Shaw: From 27 October 2008 we replaced incapacity benefits for new customers with the employment and support allowance and a revised medical assessment which focuses on what people can do, rather than what they cannot.

The information requested is in the following table.

Number of cases in payment and average weekly payment of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance in the Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency in August 2009

	Number of cases in payment	*Average weekly amount paid (£)*
Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance	800	94.33

Notes:
1. Benefit recipients are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Average weekly amounts are rounded to the nearest penny.
3. The data do not include claimants of employment and support allowance introduced from October 2008.
4. All data refer to benefit recipients and will therefore exclude credits only and nil payment cases.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Trade Unions

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many days staff of her Department and its agencies spent on trade union activity in the latest year for which figures are available; and what recent estimate she has made of the annual cost to the public purse of such activity. [320664]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is as follows:

1. The Corporate Employee Relations Framework for the Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies, which was introduced in August 2003, sets out the maximum amount of time off we will allow for trade union representatives to undertake their trade union activity.

2. The Department and its agencies allows a total resource of 0.2 per cent. of the Department's overall whole time equivalent staffing headcount as at the 1 April each year. Out of a total of 21,134,300 staff days this was 42,460 days for the year commencing 1 June 2009 to 31 May 2010.

3. Information on the annual cost to the public purse of such activity is not available.

Work Capability Assessment

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of employment and support allowance were required to take a work capability assessment in each of the last six months. [319995]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 3 March 2010]:* From 27 October 2008 we replaced incapacity benefits for new customers with the employment and support allowance and a revised medical assessment which focuses on what people can do, as well as what they cannot.

The available information is in the following table.

Work capability assessment breakdown showing the number of people assessed by month of assessment from September 2009 to November 2009

Month	*Total assessed*
September 2009	34,200
October 2009	35,200
November 2009	33,200

Notes:

1. November 2009 is the latest month for which data is available.

2. A small number of employment and support allowance claims have been assessed more than once. Repeat assessments are excluded from these figures.

3. The data are published online at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/esa_wca_19012010.pdf

Source:

Employment and Support Allowance: Work Capability Assessment Statistical Release: January 2010

JUSTICE

Bail Accommodation and Support Service

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many places are to be provided under his Department's contract with Stonham for the Bail Accommodation and Support Service; [319933]

(2) how much has been paid to Clearsprings Ltd in respect of the Bail Accommodation and Support Service in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [320060]

Mr. Straw: The contract with Stonham for the Bail Accommodation and Support Service requires an initial provision of a maximum of 740 bed spaces. However, directors of Offender Management will review demand in their region from time to time.

The amount paid to ClearSprings for the bail accommodation and support service for 2007-08 was £4.5 million and for 2008-09 was £5.8 million. In the current financial year until the end of December 2009, £4.5 million has been paid.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* disciplinary and *(b)* capability procedures have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed in his Department in each of the last five years; how much time on average was taken to complete each type of procedure in each such year; how many and what proportion of his Department's staff were subject to each type of procedure in each such year; and how many and what proportion of each type of procedure resulted in the dismissal of the member of staff. [320628]

Mr. Wills: In the Ministry of Justice, disciplinary and capability procedures are devolved to a local line management. Therefore, records of procedures initiated and completed, and the length of time taken, are not held centrally. Obtaining the data would involve asking each individual office to conduct a search of their local records, and this would incur a disproportionate cost.

The Ministry does record centrally the number of dismissals under its disciplinary and capability procedures. The figures and the proportion of total staff involved (as a percentage) are set out in the following table.

Year[1]	*Conduct*	*Percentage of total staff*	*Capability*	*Percentage of total staff*
2007-08	261	0.3	211	0.2
2008-09	172	0.2	313	0.4
2009-10[2]	159	0.2	275	0.3

[1] Data are given from the inception of the Ministry of Justice

[2] Up to 31 January 2010

Departmental ICT

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost has been of the Heavy Hitter Programme Delivery Director service deployed in his Department; on which IT projects each consultant contracted under that service worked; and what payments have been made to each such consultant for work undertaken in connection with the programme. [318111]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has not deployed a Heavy Hitter service. Senior ICT appointments within the Ministry are agreed by the Chief Information Officer in conjunction with other senior management, as appropriate.

The Ministry was established in May 2007 and prior to that responsibility for information technology rested with the predecessor Departments, including the Department for Constitutional Affairs, parts of the Home Office, and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. In October 2005 an appointment was made (by the Home Office) under the Heavy Hitter service to the role of Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the Youth Justice Board (YJB), now an MoJ sponsored NDPB. The individual continued in the CIO role until November 2009 and since then has supported work to identify how information management flows can improve efficiency and public safety in the adult criminal justice system. The YJB (as employer) ends the contract on 31 March 2010.

The costs incurred over the period October 2005 to March 2010, are £1,436,344.60. This includes agency fees, VAT and work related expenses.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information technology projects initiated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were cancelled prior to completion in the last 12 months; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [320423]

Mr. Wills: There have been no information technology projects cancelled prior to completion within the last 12 months.

Departmental Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [320543]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry does not provide coaching in foreign languages centrally, and does not hold any records on this matter. To obtain the information requested would involve identifying and contacting sources of information in many different locations and would therefore incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 103W, on departmental marketing, how much his Department and agencies have spent on advertising, marketing, public relations and publicity in relation to the *(a)* Real Help Now and *(b)* Building Britain's Future themed campaign to date. [320462]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has not engaged in advertising, marketing, public relations and publicity in relation to Real Help Now and Building Britain's Future themed campaigns.

Driving Offences: Mobile Phones

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions there have been of people of each sex in each age group in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Southend for the offence of driving whilst using a hand-held mobile telephone since the creation of that offence. [320601]

Claire Ward: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences of using a hand held mobile telephone while driving, by sex and age group, in England and Wales and the Essex police force area, from 2004 (the offence came into force on 1 December 2003) to 2008 (latest available) is given in the following table.

Court proceedings data are not available at town or parliamentary constituency level.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication in the autumn, 2010.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences of using a hand held mobile phone while driving[1], by sex and age, England and Wales and the Essex police force area, from 2004 to 2008[2, 3]

Area	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007[4]*	*2008[5, 6]*
England and Wales					
Males					
Aged 20 and under	16	31	27	374	849
Aged 21 and over	429	1,008	1,282	9,282	22,800
Sub-total	445	1,039	1,309	9,656	23,649
Females					
Aged 20 and under	3	3	5	70	165
Aged 21 and over	34	126	137	1,185	3,179
Sub-total	37	129	142	1,255	3,344
Persons					
Aged 20 and under	19	34	32	444	1,018
Aged 21 and over	463	1,134	1,419	10,467	26,074
Total	482	1,168	1,451	10,911	27,092
Of which					
Essex police force area					
Males					
Aged 20 and under	2	1		14	57
Aged 21 and over	16	35	32	453	1,566
Sub-total	18	36	32	467	1,623
Females					
Aged 20 and under	1	—		9	10
Aged 21 and over	3	5	7	69	274
Sub-total	4	5	7	78	284
Persons					
Aged 20 and under	3	1	—	23	67
Aged 21 and over	19	40	39	522	1,847

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences of using a hand held mobile phone while driving[1], by sex and age. England and Wales and the Essex police force area, from 2004 to 2008[2, 3]

Area	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[4]	*2008*[5, 6]
Total	22	41	39	545	1,914

[1] Statute: Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986—R.110(1), R.110(2) and R.110(3). Introduced 1 December 2003.
Offence description:
R.110(1) use of a hand held mobile phone while driving;
R.110(2) causing or permitting the use of a mobile phone while driving a motor vehicle
R.110(3) using a mobile phone while supervising the holder of a provisional driving licence to drive a motor vehicle on the road.

[2] The figures given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Tough new penalties for using a hand-held mobile phone while driving and for failing to have proper control of a vehicle came into effect on 27 February 2007.

[5] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[6] The gender of a defendant proceeded against may not have been reported. These data have been included in the persons only totals. Therefore, the males and females age group totals and sub-totals may not agree with the totals given under persons

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff his Department, its predecessor Department and its agencies have appointed who were later discovered to be illegal immigrants since 2005. [320498]

Mr. Wills: People employed to work in Government Departments and their agencies, either directly or through a contractor, are required to satisfy requirements on identity, nationality and immigration status prior to the offer of employment.

There has been one occasion within the last five years where compliance checks found an illegal immigrant to be working for the Ministry of Justice in 2007. The individual was subject to a criminal prosecution for using false identification documentation and given a prison sentence.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Office for Legal Complaints on agreements made by the Legal Complaints Service with solicitors in respect of the repayment of fees related to work on compensation for miners. [320989]

Bridget Prentice: We are currently in the process of establishing the Office for Legal Complaints, which is on course to meet the timetable set by Parliament of becoming fully operational by late 2010. As part of this process, the OLC has been ensuring that it understands the landscape of the legal services market, including any possible areas which may generate significant amounts of complaints. The OLC has had discussions with the Law Society, Ministry of Justice and Department of Energy and Climate Change to make sure the lessons learnt from handling complaints such as coal health compensation claims benefit the new system of complaints handling, so that the new service is responsive to any demands that might be made of it.

Under current proposals, the OLC will not be handling any complaints raised in the old system. As such, it will remain the responsibility of the LCS to ensure agreements made with solicitors in respect of miners' compensation fees are met. The LCS has received a total of 6,454 complaints relating to deductions. As a result of action taken by the LCS, including the project to work with firms to contact former clients, a total of £5,078,652.47 has been paid to former miners. This work is ongoing and the figure will therefore increase.

During the period in which the LCS is closing down, the Legal Services Board, as part of its responsibilities as the new oversight regulator of the legal sector, will be seeking to ensure that there is no detriment to consumers and the profession. The Ministry of Justice will seek regular updates from the LCS and LSB. The Government continue to support the work of the Law Society in their work to recover deductions not yet paid.

Judges: Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many judges have been appointed in each year since 1997. [320600]

Mr. Straw: The number of salaried judges appointed in each calendar year since 1997 is as set out in the following table:

		Number
	Courts	*Tribunals*
1997	78	8
1998	120	18
1999	107	68
2000	135	25
2001	125	21
2002	109	61
2003	92	59
2004	147	43
2005	104	17
2006	69	17
2007	112	41
2008	105	13
2009	99	65
2010 to date	24	12

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Billericay of 19 January 2010 on his constituent Mr Ron Capes. [320743]

Claire Ward: I replied to the hon. Member on 25 February. I apologise for the delay.

National Offender Management Institute

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the merits of establishing a National Offender Management Institute. [321177]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice keeps under regular review the arrangements for carrying out research on offender management. Our priority is to ensure that the research we commission provides good value for money and answers key questions about the most effective practice. We have received a number of proposals seeking funding for setting up an Offender Management Institute. We have assessed these and, while we believe they have some merit, we are not convinced that the time is right to change existing arrangements. Currently, a wide range of research on offender management is being carried out in different parts of the Department.

National Offender Management Service

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are in place to *(a)* evaluate the (i) effectiveness and (ii) cost-effectiveness of offender management interventions and *(b)* provide information on such evaluations. [321176]

Claire Ward: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has three major longitudinal cohort studies under way aimed at generating evidence on the link between interventions received by offenders and reoffending outcomes. One covers adult prisoners, one adult offenders on community orders, and the other examines juvenile offenders. The MoJ is also overseeing the Unit Cost in Criminal Justice (UCCJ) project which is generating information on the costs of interventions targeted at adult and young offenders. When combined with evidence from the cohorts studies, this will enable the Ministry of Justice to develop further understanding of the cost-effectiveness of interventions.

The findings from these projects will be published on the MoJ website as they become available. Initial results from the prisoner cohort study can be found on the MOJ website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/problems-needs-prisoners.htm

National Offender Management Service: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the projected underspend in the National Offender Management Service's budget is for 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [312465]

Maria Eagle: At the end of January 2010, the National Offender Management Service forecast a resource 'near cash' year-end underspend of £18 million (0.4 per cent.) of its 'near cash' Resource budget of £4,003 million. Of this expected underspend, the majority is forecast to come from the change programme with the balance coming from business as usual activities. 'Near cash' resource is principally cash but also includes adjustments for goods and services received but for which invoices have not yet been paid.

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people employed in the National Offender Management Service head office and regional offices *(a)* have a probation background, *(b)* have a prison background and *(c)* are career civil servants. [317094]

Maria Eagle: The prison and probation services operate within the framework of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Agency. For historical reasons the two services have different employment structures. Prison service staff are civil servants and are directly employed by the NOMS Agency. Probation service staff are not civil servants and are employed by a probation board or trust.

Information on the career histories of National Offender Management Service Headquarters (NOMS) staff does not include National Probation Service (NPS) experience. It is therefore not possible to provide figures of how many NOMS headquarters staff have a NPS background. Career history information that is available shows that 1,776 NOMS headquarters staff have previous experience in Prison Service establishments and are considered to have a prison background, although not all would have worked with offenders.

All NOMS headquarters staff other than those seconded from the NPS are civil servants. On 31 December 2009 there were 4,375 directly employed civil servants in national and regional offices and the Shared Service Centre.

Offences Against Children

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 833W, on offences against children, what proportion of offenders aged 21 years or over convicted of offences related to sexual activity with a child under 13 received *(a)* immediate custody, *(b)* a suspended sentence, *(c)* a community sentence, *(d)* a fine, *(e)* a conditional or absolute discharge and *(f)* other treatment in 2008. [317142]

Mr. Straw: The requested information is shown in the following table.

The proportion of those given various disposals is shown as a percentage of those sentenced. Data held by the Ministry of Justice record the age of the offender at the time of sentencing, the figures show all offenders aged over 21 and over at that point.

Percentage[1] of offenders sentenced to disposals for sexual activity with a child under 13, 2008

	% Discharged	% Fined	% given community sentence	% given Suspended sentence	% given immediate custody	% Otherwise dealt with	Total persons sentenced
2008							
Familial sexual offences with a child under 13	0.0	0.0	21.7	4.3	73.9	0.0	23
Rape or attempted rape of a child under 13	0.9	0.0	3.6	0.0	93.8	1.8	112
Abuse of a position of trust - sexual activity with a child under 13	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	2
Sexual activity with a child under 13	1.6	0.0	17.1	10.1	68.2	3.1	129
Child prostitution offences - child under 13	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	2
Sexual assault of a female child under 13	0.7	0.3	10.7	8.0	78.2	2.1	289
Sexual assault of a male child under 13	0.0	0.0	22.7	6.8	65.9	4.5	44
All above	0.8	0.2	12.0	6.7	78.0	2.3	601

[1] Due to rounding rows may not sum to exactly 100 per cent.

Notes:

1. These data are based on the principal offence. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed; where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Parliamentary Standards Authority

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what account the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority took of the level access for hon. Members to its offices when determining its permanent location. [319207]

Mr. Straw: The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) is an independent body and the new location of the Authority is wholly a matter for them. Until a suitable mechanism is set up for answering parliamentary questions on the IPSA, the hon. Member may wish to contact IPSA directly.

Police Cautions

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cautions were issued in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* the Mid-Essex division of Essex constabulary area for (i) violence against the person, (ii) theft and handling stolen goods, (iii) sexual offences, (iv) criminal damage, (v) robbery and (vi) fraud and forgery in each year since 2005. [320988]

Claire Ward: The number of offenders issued with a caution for violence against the person, theft and handling stolen goods, sexual offences, criminal damage and robbery and fraud and forgery as reported by the Essex police force area, 2005 to 2008 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Court proceedings data are not available at separate divisions within a police force area.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication in the autumn, 2010.

Number of offenders issued with a caution for selected offence type, Essex police force area, 2005 to 2008[1,2,3]

Offence type	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Violence against the person	1,342	2,754	3,127	645
Sexual offences	40	87	67	36
Robbery	10	26	21	2
Theft and handling stolen goods	1,903	3,023	3,615	2,117
Fraud and forgery	176	278	383	284
Criminal damage	40	56	63	47

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These are included in the totals.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of prison cells reckoned as *(a)* certified normal and *(b)* operational capacity accommodation in each of the next five years. [317132]

Mr. Straw: By the end of 2009 the total useable operational capacity of the prison estate was 85,986.

The Government are currently planning to increase overall net capacity to 96,000 places by 2014. There are two substantial programmes to deliver new places, the Core Capacity Programme and the New Prisons Programme. The Core Capacity Programme aims to deliver 12,500 additional places by 2012 (for which 9,500 places had been announced prior to the Carter Report of December 2007). Places are being provided through the building of new prisons as well as expansions at existing ones and more effective use of the estate. The following table shows the approximate number of additional places currently planned for delivery between 2010 and 2012 under this programme (may be subject to change):

	Number of places
2010	3,650
2011	1,400
2012	2,600

In addition, under the New Prisons Programme it is intended to build up to five new prisons with a total of 7,500 places and, as part of this programme it is currently planned to close up to 5,500 worn out, inefficient places in the current estate.

The Ministry of Justice does not hold official estimates for future useable operational capacity. Operational capacity figures will also be affected by the impact of maintenance programmes, which will vary over time. The precise numbers and delivery timings of new prison places will also depend on construction schedules and prioritisation within the prison estate.

Prison Sentences

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many indeterminate sentences for public protection handed down *(a)* between 14 July and 31 December 2008 and *(b)* in 2009 were given with tariffs of fewer than 24 months. [320985]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 944-45W.

Table 1 in that answer shows the number of offenders who have received an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection (IPP), if they are over 18 years of age, or a detention for public protection (DPP), if they are under 18 years of age, with a tariff of two years or less, as calculated from date of sentence to the date of tariff expiry. The figures shown are as notified to the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) at 5 February 2010.

The figures in that answer were taken from the Public Protection Unit Database (PPUD) in NOMS, and, as with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing. The PPUD is a live database, updated on a regular basis. As a result, snapshots taken in consecutive days will contain differences reflecting updates.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence for public protection have been in prison three or more years beyond their tariff; and how many of those prisoners are in an open prison. [320986]

Maria Eagle: As at 4 March 2010, there were 95 of prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence for public protection who have been in prison three or more years beyond their tariff. Of these, 10 were in open conditions. These figures include those prisoners being held within the juvenile and female estates.

The fact that a prisoner is held in custody past-tariff does not mean that he is being detained in custody unfairly. The tariff is the minimum period for punishment and deterrence which must be served before an indeterminate sentence prisoner may be considered for release.

However, whether the Parole Board will direct the release of tariff-expired indeterminate sentence prisoners depends on whether the board determines that it is no longer necessary, on the grounds of public protection, for that offender to be detained in custody.

The figures to answer each question were taken from the Public Protection Unit Database (PPUD) in the National Offender Management Service, and, as with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing. The PPUD is a live database, updated on a regular basis. As a result, snapshots taken in consecutive days will contain differences reflecting updates.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the size of the prison population in each month up to the end of 2015 following ending of the End of Custody Licence Scheme. [320059][1]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice produces annual projections of the prison population in England and Wales, most recently in August 2009. These project the prison population under three different scenarios, based on different assumptions about future sentencing trends.

Other impacts included in the projections, such as those of legislation and processes, are applied equally to all scenarios. These cover the anticipated impacts of policy and process initiatives that have agreed implementation timetables. These assumptions and anticipated impacts have remained unchanged since 2008 projections.

End of Custody Licence (ECL) was introduced on 29 June 2007. Under this scheme a prisoner who was given a determinate custodial sentence between four weeks and four years can be released on licence up to 18 days before the end of their sentence.

Because there was no agreed timetable for its conclusion, its effect was included throughout the projection period. In the second half of 2009, the caseload of prisoners on ECL has been between 1,000 and 1,200:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

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[1] *[Official Report, 30 March 2010, Vol. 508, c. 7MC.]*

The scheme ends on 12 March this year as was recently announced. As result of this, it is expected that by the end of March 2010, the prison population will be 1,000 to 1,200 higher than was anticipated in the current published prison population projections.

This effect will carry on from March 2010 estimates onwards. Here are last year's projections plus 1,200:

			Number
	High	*Medium*	*Low*
2010			
March	86,000	85,400	84,700
April	86,200	85,600	84,800
May	86,200	85,500	84,600
June	86,900	86,100	85,100
July	87,800	86,900	85,900
August	87,600	86,700	85,600
September	87,900	86,900	85,600
October	88,000	86,900	85,600
November	88,500	87,300	86,000
December	86,800	85,600	84,100
2011			
January	87,700	86,400	84,800
February	88,000	86,600	84,900
March	89,000	87,600	85,800
April	88,900	87,300	85,500
May	89,200	87,500	85,600
June	89,800	88,100	86,100
July	90,400	88,600	86,500
August	90,400	88,500	86,400
September	90,500	88,600	86,400
October	90,600	88,600	86,400
November	90,800	88,700	86,400
December	88,600	86,400	84,000
2012			
January	89,700	87,500	85,000
February	90,600	88,300	85,800
March	90,800	88,500	85,900
April	90,900	88,500	85,800
May	91,200	88,700	85,900
June	91,400	88,900	86,100
July	91,900	89,200	86,300
August	91,800	89,100	86,100
September	91,900	89,100	86,000
October	91,900	89,100	86,000
November	92,000	89,000	85,900
December	88,500	86,700	83,400
2013			
January	89,500	87,700	84,300
February	90,400	88,500	85,100
March	90,600	88,600	85,100
April	90,600	88,500	85,000
May	90,900	88,700	85,100
June	91,100	88,800	85,200
July	91,500	89,200	85,400
August	91,400	89,000	85,200
September	91,500	89,000	85,100
October	91,500	89,000	85,000
November	91,600	89,000	85,000
December	89,400	86,700	82,600
2014			
January	90,500	87,700	83,500
February	91,400	88,600	84,300
March	91,700	88,800	84,500
April	91,800	88,800	84,400
May	92,000	89,000	84,500
June	92,400	89,200	84,700
July	92,800	89,600	85,000
August	92,800	89,500	84,800
September	92,900	89,600	84,800
October	93,000	89,600	84,800
November	93,200	89,700	84,800
December	90,900	87,400	82,400
2015			
January	92,000	88,400	83,400
February	93,000	89,300	84,200
March	93,300	89,500	84,300
April	93,400	89,500	84,300
May	93,600	89,700	84,400
June	93,900	89,900	84,500

Note:
These figures will be revised in this year (2010) publication.

More details on the projections may be found in the latest published bulletin, "Prison Population Projections 2009-15" Ministry of Justice Statistics Bulletin, 28 August 2009. This is available at the following web page:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonpopulation.htm

Prisoners Release: Poole

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders were released on the End of Custody Licence scheme in Poole in 2008-09. [320383]

Claire Ward: The home addresses for prisoners released on ECL are not recorded centrally and cannot be provided without manual checking of prisoner records which would breach cost limits.

The total number of releases by offence group, sentence length, age, gender, ethnicity and prison establishment has been published on the Ministry of Justice website for the first week of the scheme, the remainder of July, and every subsequent month since then. However, there are no prisons in Poole so there are no ECL data to report.

For the financial year 2008-09 the total number of prisoners released on ECL was 31,150.

The monthly published figures can be found on separate links under the following main link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

Prisoners: Death

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many deaths of prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence for public protection were recorded in each year since 2005; how many of those deaths were classified as self-classified as self-inflicted in each such year; and how many incidents of self-harm by prisoners serving such a sentence were recorded in each such year. [320987]

Maria Eagle: Indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPP) were introduced in 2005. Prisoners serving such sentences account for 6 per cent. of the average prison population. Since 2005 there have been a total of 13 self-inflicted deaths involving prisoners with IPP status. These numbers are detailed in the following tables:

Type of death	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
All deaths	174	153	186	164	168
Homicide	3	—	2	3	0
Natural causes	88	83	92	99	105
Self-inflicted	78	67	92	60	60
Other non-natural	5	3	—	2	3
All IPP deaths	0	2	7	9	7
Homicide	—	—	—	1	—
Natural causes	—	—	3	4	4
Self-inflicted	—	2	4	4	3

IPP deaths as a percentage of all deaths

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Percentage* *2009*
All IPP deaths	0	1	4	5	4
Homicide	—	—	—	33	
Natural causes	—	—	3	4	4
Self-inflicted	—	3	4	7	5

The number of self-harm incidents involving IPP sentenced prisoners is as follows:

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Total population	75,979	78,127	80,216	83,194
Total self harm incidents	23,776	23,395	22,875	24,686
Total IPP population	24	1,079	2,859	4,461
IPP Self-harm incidents	59	160	267	326

IPP self-harm as a percentage of all self-harm

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*Percentage* *2008*
IPP self-harm incidents as percentage of all self-harm	0.2	0.7	1.2	1.3
IPP population as percentage of total population	0.03	1.4	3.6	5.4

Note:

Figures for 2009 remain subject to verification and are not yet available.

Any death in prison custody is a tragic event. The Government, Ministry of Justice and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is committed to learning from such events and reducing the number of self-inflicted deaths in prison custody.

NOMS has a broad, integrated and evidence-based prisoner suicide prevention and self-harm management strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all those in prison. This encompasses a wide spectrum of prison and Department of Health work around such issues as mental health, substance misuse and resettlement. Any prisoner identified as at risk of suicide or self-harm is cared for using the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork procedures.

Prisoners: Reoffenders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of all released prisoners were subsequently convicted for offences committed in the first 18 days after release in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [317126]

Mr. Straw: The data are provided from the 'Reoffending of Adults: Results from the 2007 cohort' publication, in which data are only based on the first quarter of each year. Figures for the total number of offenders cannot be aggregated up to full year figures because there is no evidence that the first quarter is representative of the full year.

Of the 12,810 adult offenders who were discharged from custody in the first quarter of 2007, 1,113 (9 per cent.), reoffended within 18 days of release. These offenders were all discharged from custody before the End of Custody Licence (ECL) scheme began on 29 June 2007. Had the ECL scheme been in place at the time of release, only a proportion of these offenders would have been eligible to be released under the scheme.

Data on alleged reoffending by prisoners on ECL are given separately in the monthly bulletins. Between the inception of the ECL scheme on 29 June 2007 and 31 December 2009 1,166 prisoners had allegedly reoffended while on ECL, 1.5 per cent. of the total released.

Further information on the one year rates of reoffending can be found in

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Further statistics relating to the End of Custody Licence scheme can be found in

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

Rape: Sentencing

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons convicted of rape received *(a)* a determinate prison sentence, *(b)* a life sentence, *(c)* an indeterminate sentence for public protection and *(d)* any other disposal in each of the last five years; and what the average (i) determinate sentence length and (ii) tariff for (A) life and (B) indeterminate sentences was. [317131]

Mr. Straw: The requested information is shown in the following table.

Offenders sentenced for rape offences, by result, 2004 to 2008

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Rape of a female under 16					
Total sentenced	275	233	219	236	239
Discharged	1	0	0	0	0
Fined	0	0	0	0	0
Community sentence	6	6	3	3	2
Suspended sentence	0	0	0	0	1
Immediate Custody	267	224	215	231	233
Otherwise dealt with	1	3	1	2	3
Average custodial sentence length (years)[1]	8.3	8.0	7.8	9.0	9.2
Life sentence	16	15	15	7	14
Indeterminate sentence for public protection	—	1	11	28	21
Rape of a female 16 or over					
Total sentenced	325	341	383	372	381
Discharged	2	0	1	0	0
Fined	0	1	0	0	0
Community sentence	1	2	1	0	2
Suspended sentence	0	1	0	1	1
Immediate Custody	319	333	376	368	372
Otherwise dealt with	3	4	5	3	6
Average custodial sentence length (years)[1]	6.5	6.9	6.7	6.5	6.7
Life sentence	34	33	40	21	10
Indeterminate sentence for public protection	—	8	72	94	84
Rape of a male under 16					
Total sentenced	28	32	15	23	14
Discharged	0	0	0	0	0
Fined	0	0	0	0	0
Community sentence	4	4	1	2	0
Suspended sentence	0	0	0	0	0
Immediate Custody	24	28	14	20	13
Otherwise dealt with	0	0	0	1	1
Average custodial sentence length (years)[1]	7.0	7.0	6.8	7.4	8.4
Life sentence	2	2	5	5	0
Indeterminate sentence for public protection	—	0	2	3	4
Rape of a male 16 or over					
Total sentenced	10	15	20	16	12
Discharged	0	0	0	0	0
Fined	0	0	0	0	0
Community sentence	0	0	0	0	0
Suspended sentence	0	0	0	0	0
Immediate Custody	10	14	19	16	11
Otherwise dealt with	0	1	1	0	1
Average custodial sentence length (years)[1]	8.4	5.8	6.4	8.3	6.3
Life sentence	2	0	1	1	0

Offenders sentenced for rape offences, by result, 2004 to 2008

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Indeterminate sentence for public protection	—	2	5	6	2
Rape of a female child under 13 by a male					
Total sentenced	5	58	85	91	141
Discharged	0	1	1	3	1
Fined	0	0	0	0	0
Community sentence	1	9	16	10	13
Suspended sentence	0	1	0	4	0
Immediate Custody	4	45	67	73	124
Otherwise dealt with	0	2	1	1	3
Average custodial sentence length (years)[1]	4.8	4.9	6.3	6.1	8.1
Life sentence	0	4	2	2	3
Indeterminate sentence for public protection	—	0	19	14	29
Rape of a male child under 13 by a male					
Total sentenced	1	14	32	38	33
Discharged	0	0	0	0	0
Fined	0	0	0	0	0
Community sentence	1	4	11	8	9
Suspended sentence	0	0	0	0	0
Immediate Custody	0	10	19	28	22
Otherwise dealt with	0	0	2	2	2
Average custodial sentence length (years)[1]	—	4.2	4.0	4.2	6.2
Life sentence	0	0	3	1	2
Indeterminate sentence for public protection	—	0	3	9	7

[1] Average custodial sentence length (years) excludes life/indeterminate sentences.

Notes:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

2. These data have been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Source:

Justice Statistics—Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

All IPP or DPP sentenced for rape 2004[1] to 2009

Sentence date	*Total*	*Average tariff years*
2005	19	3.6
2006	147	3.9
2007	190	4.4
2008	163	4.5
2009	157	5.1
Totals	676	4.3

All life sentenced prisoners sentenced for rape 2004 to 2009

Sentence date	*Total*	*Average tariff years*
2004	62	6.3
2005	61	5.7
2006	69	6.2
2007	47	6.6
2008	27	7.7
2009	17	7.3
Totals	283	6.6

[1] Indeterminate sentences for public protection introduced from 2005.

Notes:

1. There were a total of 959 sentences of Rape Section 1 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, Rape (section 1 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956) and Rape of a Child Under 13 (section 5 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003) reported to NOMS and recorded on PPUD from the period 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2009.

2. There are a total of eight tariffs unavailable because they have not been set yet, the warrant is not available or the offender received a whole life tariff. These relate to four IPPs and four life sentenced prisoners.

3. These are included in figures to show how many were sentenced in each financial year but have been removed for the purpose of the tariff calculation.

4. The figures were taken from the Public Protection Unit Database (PPUD) in the National Offender Management Service, and, as with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing. The PPUD is a live database, updated on a regular basis. As a result, snapshots taken in consecutive days will contain differences reflecting updates.

Robbery: Poole

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in each age group in Poole were convicted of robbery in each year since 1997. [320381]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of persons found guilty of robbery in the Dorset police force area, by age group, from 1997 to 2008 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level, therefore data have been provided in the table for the Dorset police force area in which the constituency of Poole is situated.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication in the autumn, 2010.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for robbery[1] offences in the Dorset police force area, by age group, from 1997 to 2008[2,3]

Persons	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
10 to 17	6	10	7	16	7	17	8	9	7	15	6	9
18 to 20	5	5	5	6	4	10	11	6	8	7	6	7
21 and over	12	22	15	17	15	27	25	22	15	18	16	21
Total	23	37	27	39	26	54	44	37	30	40	28	37

[1] Includes robbery and assaults with intent to rob under the Theft Act 1968 S.8.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

HOME DEPARTMENT

62 South Eaton Place

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the evidence given to the Home Affairs Select Committee by Mr. Sebastian Conran, Home Office Design and Technology Alliance on 2 February 2010, if he will commission a home security assessment to include in the home information pack for the sale of the Government House, South Eaton Place. [319740]

Mr. Woolas: There is no requirement for a home security assessment to be included in a home information pack.

Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of completed applications for representation on form EEA1 were dealt with within service standards in each month since January 2009. [312108]

Mr. Woolas: The percentage (rounded to the nearest whole number) of complete EEA applications decided within the service standard for each month since January 2009 was as follows:

January 2009: 5 per cent.

February 2009: 4 per cent.

March 2009: 4 per cent.

April 2009: 12 per cent.

May 2009: 33 per cent.

June 2009: 91 per cent.

July 2009: 82 per cent.

August 2: 79 per cent.

September 2009: 33 per cent.

October 2009: 46 per cent.

November 2009: 46 per cent.

December 2009: 56 per cent.

Please note that these are not national statistics.

It should be noted that UKBA's Case Information Database does not differentiate between single EEA1 applications and those linked to a related EEA2 (family member) application, the figures above include all linked EEA2 cases.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of those convicted of an offence of selling alcohol to a minor received *(a)* a fine, *(b)* a community sentence, *(c)* a custodial sentence and *(d)* an alternative punishment in England and Wales in each year since 1998; and what the (i) lowest, (ii) highest and (iii) average fine was in each such year. [317884]

Alan Johnson: The disposals for those convicted of an offence selling alcohol to a minor are set out within Table 1. The average, maximum and minimum fines in relation to sales to a minor are set out in Table 2.

Sentences for offences of selling alcohol to a minor, 1998 to 2008

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Sale of alcohol to person under 18[1]											
Total sentenced	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	15	21	317	479	320
Discharge	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	2	4	36	50	27
Fine	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	13	17	278	425	287
Community sentence	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	0	0	0	4	0
Otherwise dealt with	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	0	0	3	0	6
Proportion											
Discharge	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	13.3	19.0	11.4	10.4	8.4

Sentences for offences of selling alcohol to a minor, 1998 to 2008

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Fine	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	86.7	81.0	87.7	88.7	89.7
Community sentence	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0
Otherwise dealt with	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	1.9
Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18[3]											
Total sentenced	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	0	0	11	6	16
Discharge	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	1	0	2
Fine	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	10	6	14
Community sentence	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	0	0	0
Otherwise dealt with	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	0	0	0
Proportion											
Discharge	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	9.1	0.0	12.5
Fine	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	90.9	100.0	87.5
Community sentence	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Otherwise dealt with	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to persons under 18 for consumption on the premises[4, 5]											
Total sentenced	157	115	56	53	105	416	590	742	526	40	23
Discharge	28	20	10	11	25	62	65	77	85	3	0
Fine	129	95	46	42	80	353	519	662	438	37	21
Community sentence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Otherwise dealt with	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	3	3	0	2
Proportion											
Discharge	17.8	17.4	17.9	20.8	23.8	14.9	11.0	10.4	16.2	7.5	0.0
Fine	82.2	82.6	82.1	79.2	76.2	84.9	88.0	89.2	83.3	92.5	91.3
Community sentence	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Otherwise dealt with	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.0	0.4	0.6	0.0	8.7
Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18[6]											
Total sentenced	1	0	0	0	0	3	3	9	0	0	0
Discharge	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	3	0	0	0
Fine	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	0	0	0
Community sentence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Otherwise dealt with	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Proportion											
Discharge	0	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	100	33.3	33.3	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Fine	100	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	0	66.7	66.7	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Community sentence	0	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	0	0.0	0.0	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Otherwise dealt with	0	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	0	0.0	0.0	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Persistently selling alcohol to children[7]											
Total sentenced	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	0	0	7
Discharge	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	3
Fine	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	4
Community sentence	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	0
Otherwise dealt with	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	0
Proportion											
Discharge	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	42.9
Fine	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	57.1
Community sentence	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	0.0

Sentences for offences of selling alcohol to a minor, 1998 to 2008

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Otherwise dealt with	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	0.0

[1] S.146 Licensing Act 2003.

[2] Not applicable.

[3] S.147 Licensing Act 2003.

[4] SS.169A & 169B Licensing Act 1964 as amended by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000.

[5] Prior to the Licensing Act 2003 sale of alcohol to a person under 18 for consumption off the premises was included under this statute.

[6] S.181A (1) Licensing Act 1964 as added by Licensing Act 1988 S.17.

[7] S.147A Licensing Act 2003 as added by Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006.

Note:

1. The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were sentenced. When a defendant has been sentenced for two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

Justice Statistics—Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice. Ref: SENT(JSAS)040-10 (15/02/2010).

Average, maximum and minimum fines for offences of selling alcohol to a minor, 1998 to 2008

											£
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Sale of alcohol to person under 18[1]											
Average fine	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	205.8	250.6	323.9	375.3	378.3
Minimum fine	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	75	100	10	15	30
Maximum fine	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	450	500	2,000	3,000	4,250
Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18[3]											
Average fine	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	275.5	466.7	602.7
Minimum fine	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	60	200	50
Maximum fine	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	750	1,000	4,000
Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to persons under 18 for consumption on the premises[4, 5]											
Average fine	212.3	194.5	206.4	208.2	249.4	253.2	238.2	245.9	293.5	275.7	376.0
Minimum fine	25	25	50	40	50	20	25	25	10	25	100
Maximum fine	900	600	500	750	1,000	1,000	[6]2,000	[6]2,500	[6]2,000	1,000	1,000
Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18[7]											
Average fine	50	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	160	233.3	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Minimum fine	50	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	150	100	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Maximum fine	50	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	170	500	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Persistently selling alcohol to children[8]											
Average fine	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	1,712.5
Minimum fine	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	100
Maximum fine	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	3,750

[1] S.146 Licensing Act 2003.

[2] Not applicable.

[3] S.147 Licensing Act 2003.

[4] SS.169A and 169B Licensing Act 1964 as amended by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000.

[5] Prior to the Licensing Act 2003 sale of alcohol to a person under 18 for consumption off the premises was included under this statute.

[6] The statutory maximum fine for this offence is £1,000. These figures are likely to be errors in the recording of either the fine amount or the offence committed.

[7] S.181A (1) Licensing Act 1964 as added by Licensing Act 1988 S.17.

[8] S.147A Licensing Act 2003 as added by Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006.

Notes:

1. The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were sentenced. When a defendant has been sentenced for two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

Justice Statistics—Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice. Ref: SENT(JSAS)040-10 (15/02/2010).

Antisocial Behaviour: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many curfew orders have been issued for anti-social behaviour in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend since inception of such orders. [320606]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Curfew orders were introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 1991. Section 37 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 allows the courts to impose curfew orders on offenders. The offences for which curfew orders are made are classified by statute and no further circumstances of the offences are collected centrally. Antisocial behaviour is not a statutory classification.

Data for curfew orders are not available below criminal justice system (CJS) area level. The available information is shown in the table.

Curfew[1] orders issued in criminal courts in Essex criminal justice area, all offences, 1998 to 2008

	Number
1998	0
1999	0
2000	10
2001	16
2002	51
2003	121
2004	187
2005	200
2006	182
2007	181
2008	121

[1] Curfew orders under S.38 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000.

Notes:

1. These figures do not include community orders imposed with a curfew requirement.
2. Data held by the Ministry show the number of curfew orders issued for criminal offences and the specific statute and offence that was committed. Antisocial behaviour covers a wide range of criminal and non-criminal acts. It is not possible for the Ministry to decide which offences are defined as 'antisocial'.
3. The data are presented on the principal offence basis, when a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
4. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

Justice Statistics—Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

Asylum: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations have been received by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the UK Border Agency from local authorities on funding in respect of asylum seekers. [319731]

Mr. Woolas: We have regular meetings and correspondence with local authorities and the Local Government Association about the funding of support arrangements for unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC), former UASC and other asylum seekers or failed asylum seekers supported by local authorities.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding the UK Border Agency allocated to each local authority in respect of asylum seekers in 2008-09. [319732]

Mr. Woolas: UK Border Agency funds local authorities for caring for unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) or, in certain circumstances, the same children once they reach 18 years of age. The funding paid to local authorities in respect of UASC and former UASC in 2008-09 is set out as follows:

	£
UASC Grant	136,349,113
Leaving Care	14,470,259

The full terms of this year's grant and the eligibility criteria can be found at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithasylumseekers/localauthoritygrants/

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what legislative arrangements apply to the capture, storage and use of number plate recognition images by law enforcement agencies; [320273]

(2) how many number plate recognition images were stored by *(a)* the police force, *(b)* national police agencies and *(c)* his Department on the latest date for which figures are available. [320274]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 4 March 2010]:* Data derived from the use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) are subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. Practice Advice on the Management and Use of ANPR is issued to chief officers by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers. A copy of the Practice Advice is available at:

http://www.acpo.police.uk/asp/policies/data/ANPR_genesis.pdf

The National ANPR Programme Board is currently examining the benefits of any further regulatory framework and is expected to report later this year.

On 2 March 2010, 10,674,058 ANPR reads by the police service were registered with the National ANPR Data Centre. The centre is managed by the NPIA on behalf of police forces.

Biometrics

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department has plans to open new biometric enrolment centres. [318769]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 25 February 2010]:* The contract which the UK Border Agency has with Post Office Ltd. allows for eight post offices to be added to the pilot in the financial year 2010-11. No decision has yet been taken on whether to take up this option.

The Identity and Passport Service's (IPS) current planning assumptions allow for the provision of biometric enrolment centres during 2012. These will be delivered both through IPS offices as in-house services, and also by third party concession arrangements with one or more partners.

In the meantime the system currently in use by IPS for identity card enrolment for British citizens will continue to be incrementally rolled out, taking account of public demand and how we can achieve maximum benefit for the UK and its residents.

Counter-Terrorism: Expenditure

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information his Department collects on expenditure by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) on work on counter-terrorism, with particular reference to expenditure by ACPO's Terrorism and Allied Matters Committee on the provision of accommodation in London for use by members of ACPO. [319425]

Mr. Hanson: ACPO (TAM) advises Government on how to tackle serious and ongoing terrorist threats, coordinating the strategic policing response and providing leadership to police forces on national counter-terrorism policing matters. This includes advice to the Home Office on the distribution of Counter-Terrorism Specific Grant funding across the police counter-terrorism network. In addition, ACPO (TAM) has developed a programme management structure to coordinate the delivery of a major national up-lift in the police's counter-terrorism capability. For 2009-10 the Home Office provided funding totalling £32.8 million to ACPO (TAM) to fulfil this role through the Counter Terrorism Specific Grant for England and Wales.

The growth in counter-terrorism policing work has led to an increase in the number of staff seconded from forces across the UK to ACPO (TAM) headquarters in London. Accommodation for staff on secondment is agreed by ACPO (TAM) with the seconding force, in line with Home Office guidance on conditions of service for police officers on secondment. The total cost of flats in 2009-10 for ACPO (TAM) staff in London was £1.56 million.

The Home Office receives regular management information from ACPO (TAM) including information relating to expenditure by ACPO (TAM) headquarters. The Home Office and ACPO (TAM) work closely on funding matters and will continue to drive value for money improvements in counter-terrorism policing work and to identify any potential efficiencies for 2010-11 and beyond. Furthermore, as a registered company, ACPO's accounts are subject to audit, which includes whether funds have been used for the purposes intended.

Crime: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what percentage of recorded crime in each local authority area was attributable to the effects of alcohol in each of the last five years; [320045]

(2) how many *(a)* crimes, *(b)* violent crimes and *(c)* sexual crimes were attributable to the effects of alcohol in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [320046]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available centrally. It is not possible to determine the number of offences which were attributable to the effects of alcohol from the police recorded crime data collected by the Home Office.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many jobs formerly undertaken by staff of his Department have been outsourced to external companies in each of the last five years; and to which companies. [3146[illegible]1]

Mr. Woolas: In the last five years, no jobs formerly undertaken by staff in the Home Department (excluding its agencies) have been outsourced to external companies.

Departmental Information Officers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many press and communications officers and staff were employed by his Department at what cost in each year since 1997; and how many briefings his Department has held for the media in each such year. [318037]

Alan Johnson: The following table provides the information requested on the numbers of Press Officers, Communications Officers and staff working in the Communication Directorate in the central Home Office and their costs.

	Press officers		*Communications officers*		*Staff*	
	Number	*Cost (£)*	*Number*	*Cost (£)*	*Number*	*Cost (£)*
2004-05	43	1,964,000	15	824,528	114	5,688,912
2005-06	34	1,616,410	21	1,235,501	106	4,932,931
2006-07	35	1,954,405	19.5	1,165,819	110	5,224,040
2007-08	[1]39	1,554,863	21	1,183,028	[1]95	4,626,997
2008-09	[2]42.89	1,583,488	28	1,722,952	99	4,627,967

[1] Machinery of Government changes May 2007, 11 press officer and seven correspondence posts transferred to the Ministry of Justice. The total also includes six Borders and Immigration Agency Regional Press Officers; whose posts were created in 2007.

[2] This includes six Regional Press Officers (full time equivalents) who are employed regionally by UKBA who undertake work for UKBA which includes tasks which transferred through Machinery of Government changes from HMRC.

Information has been provided for the years held; further data could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

There is no central record of the numerous media briefings conducted by ministers and/or senior officials as the vast majority of these are largely done on an ad hoc and routine basis. The only central record we have is for the number of formal briefings/press conferences or external events that accompany major announcements where a formal operational note inviting the media is issued. These figures are:

	Number
2005	48
2006	59
2007	35
2008	31
2009	43
2010	[1]10

[1] To date.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many layers of management reporting from the most senior to the most junior there are in his Department and each of its agencies; how many officials are employed in each such layer; and how much was spent on salaries and associated employment costs of staff at each such layer in the latest year for which information is available. [312820]

Mr. Woolas: Table 1 shows the numbers of staff at each level of management for the Home Office and its agencies. The number of layers in any individual management line will vary according to the function. Typically a big operational area with large numbers of staff will have more management layers than a policy function.

Further breakdown of costs by grade is not readily available and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Table 1: Responsibility level (FTE)[1, 2, 3] for executive officers to senior civil servants

	Senior management	Other Management		
	Senior civil service	Grades 6 and 7	Senior and higher executive officers	Executive officers
Home Office				
Home Office (excl agencies)[4]	150	710	1,100	520
UK Border Agency	50	560	3,610	6,940
Criminal Records Bureau	10	20	90	150
Identity and Passport Service	20	140	540	960

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.

[2] With the exception of the senior civil service, Government Departments have delegated pay and grading. For statistical purposes Departments are asked to map their grades to a common framework by responsibility level.

[3] This table shows staff in their substantive responsibility level unless on temporary promotion in which case staff are recorded at the higher responsibility level.

[4] Includes Government office for the regions employees.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies are in transition prior to being managed out; how long on average the transition window between notification and exit has been in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the salary costs of staff in transition in each such year; and what proportion of employees in transition were classed as being so for more than six months in each year. [313239]

Mr. Woolas: We do not hold information in the form requested. Tables 1 to 5 provide information for the Home Office and its agencies on the numbers of staff in the Home Office's redeployment network and the proportion surplus for over six months.

Table 1: Surplus staff, Home Office headquarters

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Total number entered Redeployment Network	96	85	121	108	54
Redeployment Network 6+	32	20	23	12	[1]—

[1] Fewer than 5.

Table 2: Surplus staff, UKBA

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Total number entered Redeployment Network	n/a	n/a	n/a	44	166
Redeployment Network 6+	n/a	n/a	n/a	19	12

n/a = not available.

Table 3: Surplus staff, IPS

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Total number entered Redeployment Network	0	0	0	0	[1]—
Redeployment Network 6+	0	0	0	0	0

[1] Fewer than 5.

Table 4: Surplus staff, CRB

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Total number entered Redeployment Network	0	0	0	0	0
Redeployment Network 6+	0	0	0	0	0

Table 5: Proportion of employees in redeployment pool for more than six months each year

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Dept total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Table 5: Proportion of employees in redeployment pool for more than six months each year

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
IPS	0	0	0	0	[1]
CRB	0	0	0	0	0
UKBA	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.10	0.07
Home Office HQ	1.07	0.67	0.77	0.40	[1]

n/a = not available.

[1] Redacted as total is fewer than 5.

Note:

Headcount for HQ has been calculated excluding HM Prison Service/NOMS which was part of HO until 2006-07: this is to avoid distorting year on year data.

Departmental Public Opinion

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* other deliberative forms of public opinion research in each of the last 10 years. [319694]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* The information requested is not available.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many thefts from his Department have been recorded in the last two years. [318994]

Mr. Woolas: There is no centralised reporting mechanism for recording of reported thefts in the Home Department. To gather the information required would incur disproportionate costs.

Deportation: Democratic Republic of Congo

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will investigate recent reports of the treatment of asylum seekers who are returned to the Democratic Republic of Congo against their will. [320587]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency will investigate specific allegations that returnees to any country have experienced ill-treatment on return from the UK. Neither the UK Border Agency nor the independent courts have found credible evidence that unsuccessful asylum claimants involuntarily returned to Democratic Republic of Congo have faced ill-treatment upon return.

Detection Rates

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of trends in police detection rates in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [320586]

Mr. Alan Campbell: From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very small limited set of circumstances. This has significantly reduced the number of non-sanction detections which has been reflected in the overall detection rates.

The Home Office now uses 'sanction detections' as the preferred measure for detections data.

Sanction detections are offences which are cleared up through a formal sanction against an offender i.e. by an offender being charged or summonsed, cautioned, having an offence taken into consideration, receiving a penalty notice for disorder or receiving a warning for cannabis possession.

The sanction detection rate was 20 per cent. in 2004-05. The rate then rose in successive years between 2004-05 and 2007-08 when it was 28 per cent. The sanction detection rate remained at 28 per cent. in 2008-09, a rise of eight percentage points over the 2004-05 figure.

Detention Centres: Children

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children *(a)* entered and *(b)* left immigration detention between April and December 2009; and how many of those who left detention in that period were (i) deported and (ii) released. [319000]

Mr. Woolas: Published management information indicates that 830 children entered detention solely under Immigration Act powers between April and December 2009 and 860 children left detention held solely under Immigration Act powers during the same period. Within these statistics, it is not possible to separately identify how many of the children were removed from the UK or released upon leaving detention. However, published National Statistics indicate that a total of 415 children were removed from the UK upon leaving detention solely under Immigration Act powers in the same period. As usual, figures are provisional and are rounded to the nearest five. Children are those individuals recorded as being under 18 years of age at the start and the end of their period of detention respectively and may have been detained more than once during that time.

This information has been extracted from the text and the tables of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom—2nd to 4th Quarter 2009 publications which are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Disadvantaged

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many schemes aimed at *(a)* improving parenting skills, *(b)* supporting dysfunctional families and *(c)* providing diversionary activities for young people at risk of offending his Department has introduced since 1997; how much has been spent on such schemes;

and how much has been provided to local authorities in ring-fenced funding for each such scheme. [312220]

Mr. Alan Campbell: In relation to parts *(a)* and *(b)*, these issues fall within the remit of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, who provided a response on 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1172-73W.

In response to part *(c)*, the Home Office-funded Positive Futures programme was launched in 2001 and aims to prevent young people from becoming involved in substance misuse, crime and antisocial behaviour by engaging them in sport and arts based activities and supporting them to access education, training, employment and volunteering opportunities. The programme is delivered locally by a range of partners including local authorities and local and national third sector providers.

Total Home Office expenditure on the Positive Futures programmes is shown in the following table:

Positive Futures programmes: Funding

	£
Outturn expenditure	
2004-05	6,240,990
2005-06	5,812,928
2006-07	5,832,101
2007-08	6,007,641
2008-09	5,988,469
Budget	
2009-10	5,999,000

Note:
Expenditure from previous years and a breakdown of individual grants to local authorities is not available without disproportionate cost.
Source:
Home Office Accounting System

In addition, in May 2004, the Home Office set up the Connected Fund, which provided small grants to local community organisations working primarily with young people and included work such as mentoring projects and diversionary activities. Over six rounds of funding, a total of £1.75 million was disbursed to 400 community organisations. However, it is not possible to disaggregate the amount of funding which was specifically used to support diversionary activities.

From 2009-10, we have made available £4.5million over three years to 150 organisations working to divert young people from gun, gang and knife crime through the Community Fund.

In December 2008, the Home Office launched a £500,000 funding stream for 2009-10 of the Youth Sector Development Fund, aimed at organisations working specifically with young people most at risk of becoming involved in gang and knife crime.

Domestic Violence

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Islwyn of 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 849W, on domestic violence, what timetable has been set for *(a)* funding for national helplines, multi-agency risk assessment conferences, independent domestic violence advisers and other domestic violence related services *(b)* the development of an online directory of violence against women and girls services; and when those services will be operational. [320117]

Mr. Alan Campbell: As soon as the formal budget delegation has been received we will be able to make announcements in relation to funding for national helplines, MARACs and IDVAs. The announcement will be made by the end of March at the latest.

We are still working with other Government Departments and the sector to scope out the most effective model for the online directory of services and will set out a timetable for delivery when we have determined what the model should be.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Islwyn of 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 849W, on domestic violence, whether his Department uses methods other than the British Crime Survey to gather information about domestic violence. [320139]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office collects the following information about domestic violence:

Total number of reported domestic violence incidents (by police force area)

Number of incidents of reported domestic violence that involved victims of a reported domestic violence incident in the previous 12 months (by police force area)

Information from Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) which includes the number of cases and repeat rate of victimisation (from each MARAC)

Number of homicides which gives figures by relationship between victim and suspect.

Ad-hoc social research projects are commissioned by the Home Office from time-to-time to inform the development and assessment of policy and practice on domestic violence. Typically these employ a mix of methods and often include qualitative interviews with victims and practitioners as well as the analysis of administrative data. Copies of Home Office social research reports can be found online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.html

Domestic Violence: Forced Marriage

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on provision of transport to refuges for victims of domestic violence or honour-related violence; and what mechanisms are in place to ensure that local authorities comply with that guidance. [320109]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Guidance has not been issued to local authorities on procuring transport for victims of domestic violence or honour-related violence.

Driving Under Influence

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many motorists were *(a)* stopped on suspicion and *(b)* prosecuted for drink driving in 2009. [319754]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information is not collected centrally on how many motorists were stopped on suspicion of drink driving. Information on breath tests held by the Home Office covers the number of screening breath tests carried out and of which number of positive/refused. This information is broken down by police force area level only. Please see chapter 4 of our most recent publication of "Police Powers and Procedures 07/08" for number of screening breath tests. See following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/police-powers.html

The Home Office advise that data for 2009 are planned for publication in April 2010.

Information held by the Ministry of Justice deals with court proceedings for drink drive offences. The Ministry of Justice advise that data for 2009 are planned to be published in the autumn, 2010. The number of proceedings at magistrates courts for drink driving offences in 2008 (latest available) can be found in "Criminal Statistics England and Wales 2008" volume 6, table S6.1, supplementary volumes, "Court proceedings offences relating to motor vehicles" published on the Ministry of Justice website. See following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/criminalannual.htm

Entry Clearances

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the visa issued on behalf of Mr. Abdul Manan Saleh by the UK Border Agency on 19 November 2009 to be available for collection. [318961]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 26 February 2010]:* The visa for Mr. Abdul Manan Saleh was printed on 1 March and his passport returned to our commercial partner, Gerry's, for collection by the applicant.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what effect the withdrawal of accreditation as a bona fide institution offering courses for overseas students from a private college has upon the immigration status of students studying at that college. [314603]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 3 February 2010]:* Withdrawal of accreditation from a private college that has been granted a Tier 4 Sponsor Licence by the UK Border Agency will lead to the revocation of their Sponsor Licence. Students studying at the college will then be afforded a maximum of 60 calendar days, to find another course with a registered Tier 4 sponsor. If at the end of this period they have not found a place on a new course they will have to leave the United Kingdom or face enforced removal.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who has responsibility for monitoring and enforcing the present 20 hour limit on work by overseas students; who will have the responsibility of monitoring and enforcing the 10 hours limit on work by overseas students proposed to be introduced on 3 March; and whether additional enforcement or monitoring duties will fall on the higher education institution accepting such students following implementation of the proposed changes. [318810]

Mr. Woolas: It is the responsibility of all UK employers to establish that their employees have the legal right to work in the UK and to undertake the work in question before commencing that employment. The responsibility for monitoring the current 20 hour limit and the new 10 hour limit on employment therefore rests with employers who should only employ migrants who have the required permission to work, and employers should not offer employment in excess of an overseas student's permitted hours.

It is the responsibility of the UK Border Agency to enforce compliance with the immigration rules, including compliance with any restrictions on employment.

No additional enforcement or monitoring duties fall on the higher education institutions accepting such students, except in the event that they are employers of these overseas students. The new 10 hour work limit will apply to all students following courses of study below degree level, excluding those who are on foundation degree courses, as outlined in the Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules (HC 367) laid before the House on 10 February 2010.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have received a student visa sponsored by a language college which has subsequently been identified by his Department as bogus in each year since 2006. [319578]

Mr. Woolas: Prior to the launch of tier 4 on 31 March 2009 educational institutions were not required to be registered as sponsors with the UK Border Agency and it is therefore not possible to say how many bogus language colleges were in existence. Information about the number of overseas students attending such colleges is therefore not available.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people entering the UK on a false student visa have been identified and deported in *(a)* each of the last three years and *(b)* 2010 to date. [319579]

Mr. Woolas: Information regarding the number of people attempting to enter the UK by presenting false student visas could be obtained by analysing each individual case record, only at disproportionate cost.

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the refusal rate was for visitor applications from Islamabad in *(a)* the latest period for which figures are available and *(b)* each of the last two years. [319001]

Mr. Woolas: The refusal rates for visit visa applications lodged in Pakistan in 2008 and 2009 were 39 per cent. and 67 per cent., respectively.

Forced Marriages

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the recommendations made in the Home Affairs Committee's Sixth Report of Session 2007-08, on Domestic Violence, Forced Marriage and 'Honour-based' Violence, HC 263, were accepted by the Government; of those accepted by the Government, what proportion have been implemented; by what date he expects those accepted but not yet implemented to be implemented; and if he will make a statement. [318538]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government's responses (23 July and 30 September 2008) to the recommendations made in the Home Affairs Committee's report on domestic violence, forced marriage and honour-based violence are available at:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmhaff/cmhaff.htm

We understand that the Committee is reviewing all of the recommendations it has made in the last five years. We have contributed to this exercise and our update reflects the latest information on implementation and progress.

Homicide: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been murdered in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex in each year since 1997. [320585]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Available data are from the recorded crime series and relate to homicides recorded by the Southend community safety partnership (CSP; formerly known as crime and disorder reduction partnership) and Essex police force area up to and including 2008-09. Recorded crime data at CSP level are only available from 2000-01.

Recorded offences of homicide, Southend CSP and Essex police force area, 1997-98 to 2008-09

	Southend CSP[1]	Essex PFA
1997-98	—	16
1998-99	—	14
1999-2000	—	20
2000-01	—	15
2001-02	—	24
2002-03	6	22
2003-04	2	12
2004-05	4	13
2005-06	5	21
2006-07	1	23
2007-08	1	15
2008-09	1	12

[1] Community safety partnerships (CSPs) were formerly known as crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRPs). Data at this level are only available from 2002-03.

Note:

Data are from the recorded crime series and are on a different basis to data held on the Homicide Index.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons identified as possible victims of trafficking by the UK Border Agency or by their legal representative were placed in the detention fast-track system between 1 April and 31 December 2009; how many of them were subsequently released; and for what reason each was released. [318964]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* Between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009 competent authorities found reasonable grounds to believe nine individuals in the detained fast track system were victims of trafficking. In all of the nine cases the individuals were subsequently taken out of the detained fast track process for this reason.

There is currently no record of individuals entering or being included in the detained fast track after receiving a positive reasonable grounds decision.

Legal representatives are not among the group of designated first responders under the National Referral Mechanism and we therefore do not record cases where solely a legal representative considers someone to be a victim of trafficking.

Human Trafficking: Children

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the merits of appointing an independent National Rapporteur on Trafficking with a special focus on children. [320237]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government have considered the benefits of appointing an independent national rapporteur for child trafficking but believes the current system of having an Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking supported and challenged by the Trafficking NGO Stakeholder Group provide appropriate forums for scrutiny and challenge of both policy and practice of tackling human trafficking and supporting trafficking victims. Child Trafficking features heavily in both these forums and the UK Government's action plan includes 15 child specific actions to improve safeguarding of trafficked children.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the merits of introducing a system of guardianship for child victims of trafficking. [320238]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Protection and support for child trafficking victims is paramount and the Government have considered this issue carefully. However the Government do not believe that guardians for trafficked children would enhance the protection and support available to trafficked children over and above the existing safeguarding and support arrangements that are in place at a local level. The Government believe that this responsibility should remain with the local authorities who have a statutory duty to ensure that they safeguard and promote the welfare of all children under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, regardless of their immigration status or nationality. This conclusion was recognised and accepted by the Home Affairs Select Committee in its report in May 2009.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his latest estimate is of the number of child victims of trafficking in the UK. [320239]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government's latest estimate of the numbers of children believed to have been trafficked into the UK is 325. This estimate is taken from the strategic threat analysis carried out by the Child Exploitation

Online Protection Centre (CEOP) and published in its report in April 2009. The estimate is derived from data covering the period 1 March 2007 to 29 February 2008.

Identity Cards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make it his policy to oppose a merger of the National Identity Register into a European ID database. [318712]

Alan Johnson: The Identity Cards Act 2006 establishes the scope of the National Identity Register as a register of individuals in the United Kingdom and there are no plans to change these provisions.

Identity Cards: Cheshire

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for identity cards his Department has received from residents of *(a)* the county of Cheshire and *(b)* Crewe and Nantwich constituency since 1 January 2010. [320875]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service is not able to provide information relating to particular constituency or county for identity card applications. However as of 3 March 2010 there have been 4,307 applications for identity cards from people living in the north-west of England, including Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Merseyside, Lancashire and Cumbria.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employers hiring illegal immigrants have had the maximum available fine per worker imposed on them in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [318702]

Alan Johnson: In 2008 (1 March 2008 to 31 December 2008) no maximum civil penalties were issued by the UK Border Agency to employers of illegal migrant workers.

In 2009 (1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009) a total of four maximum civil penalties of £10,000 per employee were issued by the UK Border Agency to employers of six illegal migrant workers. The civil penalty issued to one of these employers, which related to two employees, was cancelled at objection.

There have been no maximum civil penalties issued in 2010 so far (1 January to 24 February).

These data are derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and liable to change.

Fines imposed for employing illegal workers[1], 1998 to 2008

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Magistrates court											
Average fine	—	500	2,075	350	500	100	728	845	1,337	797	1,154
Maximum fine[2]	—	500	3,000	350	500	100	2,050	2,500	4,000	3,500	2,500
Number fined	0	1	4	1	1	1	8	11	6	23	30
Crown court											
Average fine	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	16,123
Maximum fine[3]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,000	—	76,55
Number fined	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5

[1] Offences under S.8 Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 or S.21 Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006

[2] The statutory maximum fine for an offender sentenced at the magistrates' court is £5,000

[3] There is no statutory maximum fine for an offender sentenced at the Crown court

Notes:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.

Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system

2. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Source:

Justice Statistics - Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Immigrants: Detainees

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children under the age of *(a)* 10 and *(b)* five years old were being held in immigration removal centres on the latest date for which figures are available. [319775]

Alan Johnson: As at 31 December 2009, no children, defined as persons aged 17 or below, were detained in the UK solely under Immigration Act powers. This excludes children detained in Prison Service establishments' mother and baby units.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received from Birmingham City Council on the proposals in the Crime and Security Bill relating to vehicle immobilisation businesses; and if he will make a statement. [319519]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Birmingham city council's Public Protection Committee wrote to the Home Secretary on 11 February 2010 about the proposals in the Crime and Security Bill relating to vehicle immobilisation businesses.

The council also previously wrote to Home Office Ministers on three occasions since 20 December 2007 about the regulation of vehicle immobilisation business, including a response to our public consultation published in April 2009 on how best to regulate vehicle immobilisation (VI) businesses operating on private land.

Our proposals for the regulation of vehicle immobilisation business as set out in the Crime and Security Bill will make it mandatory for all wheel clamping businesses working on private land, as well as their employees, to be licensed by the SIA under the terms of a code of practice. The conditions of the code will include a cap on fines, time limits on towing cars unreasonably quickly after being clamped and clear instructions for putting up signs warning drivers that clamping takes place. In addition, the proposals include the setting up of an independent appeals process to enable motorists to appeal where they consider that the terms of the code have been breached.

The conditions of the code will have statutory force, and will be set out in regulations before the code is published. Failure to comply with the code, or operating without a business licence, will be a criminal offence and could result in prosecution.

We believe our proposals under the Bill will address the issues raised by Birmingham city council in their correspondence.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letter of 14 January 2010 from the hon. Member for Walsall North to the UK Border Agency regarding a resident in his constituency, reference T1146229. [320347]

Mr. Woolas: The Regional Director of the UK Border Agency wrote to my hon. Friend on 3 February 2010.

Personation: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how may offences involving the fraudulent use of personal information have been reported to *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend police in each year since 1997; and how many such reports led to a (i) prosecution and (ii) conviction. [320655]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available centrally. Offences involving the fraudulent use of personal information would be recorded under the Home Office offence classification of 'Fraud by false representation'. However, it is not possible to separately identify those offences involving the fraudulent use of personal information from other fraud offences recorded under that classification. As a result, it is not possible to state how many offences led to prosecution and conviction.

Police: Complaints

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many complaints against the police were received in each year since 1997; [319524]

(2) what the 10 most common causes of complaint made against the police were in each year since 1997; and how many such complaints were made in each such year. [319779]

Alan Johnson: The Home Office collated and published annual statistical information for Police Complaints and Discipline for England and Wales, until 31 March 2004.

The totals of complaints about the police received for England and Wales in each year since 1997 are:

	Complaints
1997-98	35,834
1998-99	31,653
1999-2000	30,807
2000-01	31,034
2001-02	26,701
2002-03	24,562
2003-04	25,376

The Home Office Statistical bulletins give numbers for substantiated complaints by reason. The 10 most common causes for such complaints, and their number in each year from 1997, are contained in the following table.

Since it came into existence on 1 April 2004, the Independent Police Complaints Commission has been responsible for the collection and analysis of police complaints statistical information.

Substantiated complaints by reason for complaint, England and Wales

Number of complaints

Reason for complaint	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*
Assault	125	126	98	112	101	98	99
Oppressive behaviour/ harassment	53	42	62	54	56	59	46
Unlawful/unnecessary arrest/ detention	67	55	36	67	49	42	54
Perjury/irregularity in evidence	27	22	17	24	24	38	26
Mishandling of property	33	22	12	22	22	17	25
Neglect of duty	237	205	228	320	325	349	372
Impropriety in connection with search of premises	33	28	21	17	19	21	26
Irregularity in procedure	153	131	138	154	156	140	158
Incivility	78	68	64	87	92	113	110
Other	27	30	15	15	28	41	28

Police: Firearms

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police-owned firearms and *(b)* confiscated firearms were lost or stolen from police forces in England and Wales in 2009. [320233]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not collected or held centrally by the Home Office.

Police: Manpower

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of service was for police officers serving in England and Wales between 1999 and 2009. [320232]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested cannot be calculated from the centrally collected data within the police personnel statistics series. Length of service data are only collected in a number of fixed time bands.

Police: Vehicles

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many accidents involving police vehicles there have been in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend in each year since 1997. [320652]

Mr. Hanson: The available data are provided in the tables.

Figures from 2002-03 onwards for Essex Police Force have been provided based on data held centrally in the Home Office.

Figures for Essex county and Southend and Thurrock unitary authority for 1997 to 2008 have also been provided by the Department for Transport. These numbers do not include all police vehicles involved in accidents—only those that were involved in an accident where an individual was injured, and where the police vehicle can be matched against the DVLA records.

As these figures are based on different definitions, they are not comparable.

Road traffic collisions on public roads involving police vehicles, Essex, 2002-03 to 2008-09

	Number
2002-03	414
2003-04	345
2004-05	327
2005-06	391
2006-07	607
2007-08	626
2008-09	509

Notes:

1. All data are unvalidated, subject to change and provided on a provisional basis only
2. Data are not available centrally for Southend.
3. Data are not available centrally prior to 2002-03.

Reported personal injury road accidents involving a police vehicle[1] [2]: 1997-2008

	Essex[3]	Southend
1997	68	7
1998	55	9
1999	50	6
2000	78	8
2001	63	12
2002	53	5
2003	50	3
2004	51	6
2005	41	5
2006	56	4
2007	57	3
2008	51	7

[1] Vehicle type is based on vehicle tax records held by DVLA. This will exclude vehicles which fall under different tax classes which may be used by the police e.g. privately hired/owned vehicles

[2] Vehicle model is assigned through matching the vehicle's registration mark (registration number) against DVLA records. These vehicles are only those with a high or probable match to DVLA records

[3] Essex county, including the unitary authorities of Southend and Thurrock

Average (mean) and highest end-of-year performance-related, non-consolidated bonuses paid for the last four performance years.

£

	Average	Highest
2008-09	9,225	15,000
2007-08	9,952	22,000
2006-07	9,577	20,000
2005-06	6,868	15,000

Policing and Crime Act 2009

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps he plans to take to ensure that training on the implementation of Part 2 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 is cascaded to front-line officers; [320043]

(2) what steps he is taking to train police officers for the introduction of the Policing and Crime Act 2009, with particular reference to the use of the new powers introduced under Part 2 of that Act. [320044]

Mr. Hanson: The National Policing Improvement Agency's (NPIA) Operational, Specialist and Leadership Training Courses are affected by the Policing and Crime Act 2009. These courses are currently being updated to cover the new legislation and accountabilities.

All NPIA training courses and learning resources are regularly updated and reviewed by the NPIA Legal and Diversity Review Team.

Rape

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of women *(a)* in each age group, *(b)* in each area and *(c)* of each ethnicity raped in each of the last 10 years. [320177]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Since the introduction of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in May 2004, data for offences of rape of a female have been broken down into three victim age groups. The age groups are: aged 16 and over, children under 16 and children under 13. Prior to May 2004, the Home Office had not been able to identify the age group of the victim. The data for 2004-05 to 2008-09 are shown in Table 1.

Data for total offences of rape of a female by police force area for 1999-2000 to 2008-09 are shown in Tables 2a and 2b. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002 and figures before and after this date are not directly comparable. Data for 1999-2000 to 2001-02 are shown in Table 2a and data for 2002-03 to 2008-09 are shown in Table 2b.

Information on ethnicity of victims is not held centrally.

Table 1: Recorded offences of rape of a female by age group, 2004-05 to 2008-09

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Rape of a female[1]	693	61	25	145	169
Rape of a female aged 16 and over	8,192	8,725	8,222	7,586	7,781
Rape of a female child under 16	3,014	3,153	2,853	2,413	2,532
Rape of a female child under 13	970	1,388	1,524	1,485	1,647
Total	12,869	13,327	12,624	11,629	12,129

[1] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 introduced in May 2004 altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences. A small number of offences continue to be recorded relating to offences repealed by the Act; while these may continue to be legitimately recorded for offences prior to May 2004 it is also possible that some may have been recorded in these old categories in error, so recent changes based on small numbers should be interpreted with caution.

Table 2a: Recorded offences of rape of a female by police force area, 1999-2000 to 2001-02

	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
Avon and Somerset	166	188	302
Bedfordshire	92	81	89
Cambridgeshire	97	102	144
Cheshire	62	80	69
Cleveland	45	36	54
Cumbria	33	37	44
Derbyshire	98	102	113
Devon and Cornwall	150	168	165
Dorset	61	67	108
Durham	58	45	71
Dyfed-Powys	49	46	46
Essex	184	153	190
Gloucestershire	63	85	49
Greater Manchester	512	508	526
Gwent	94	76	101
Hampshire	228	257	279
Hertfordshire	63	82	81
Humberside	160	134	151
Kent	131	169	171
Lancashire	136	182	174
Leicestershire	141	142	152
Lincolnshire	51	63	103
London, City of	1	2	9
Merseyside	219	214	256
Metropolitan police	2,142	2,044	2,336
Norfolk	82	103	103
Northamptonshire	42	56	91
Northumbria	227	208	259
North Wales	88	89	111
North Yorkshire	39	46	65
Nottinghamshire	210	211	227
South Wales	115	115	112
South Yorkshire	114	112	105
Staffordshire	175	182	197
Suffolk	80	94	112
Surrey	72	119	110
Sussex	198	237	215
Thames Valley	218	245	269
Warwickshire	19	25	30
West Mercia	86	105	169
West Midlands	481	499	553
West Yorkshire	449	348	406
Wiltshire	78	72	85
Total	7,809	7,929	9,002

Note:
The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 2b: Recorded offences of rape of a female by police force area, 2002-03 to 2008-09

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Avon and Somerset	361	447	427	295	393	352	308
Bedfordshire	116	139	149	188	141	106	158
British Transport Police	11	25	39	17	16	14	22
Cambridgeshire	177	216	219	193	193	198	180
Cheshire	104	172	184	165	150	140	141
Cleveland	96	139	135	158	125	130	122
Cumbria	61	71	73	73	63	78	69
Derbyshire	185	221	257	253	253	217	242
Devon and Cornwall	255	303	348	361	355	360	376
Dorset	128	137	149	166	115	192	155
Durham	53	68	[illegible]	129	76	117	107
Dyfed-Powys	44	99	[illegible]	79	92	66	71
Essex	281	316	320	352	324	264	321
Gloucestershire	109	97	105	145	150	130	134
Greater Manchester	667	790	812	769	767	712	769
Gwent	137	77	103	112	132	164	140
Hampshire	342	439	573	618	592	549	535
Hertfordshire	160	149	179	197	179	163	125
Humberside	239	330	286	323	264	237	209
Kent	201	268	329	413	368	379	337
Lancashire	225	241	249	299	257	232	236
Leicestershire	237	238	291	287	275	315	298
Lincolnshire	128	156	164	169	147	154	140
London, City of	3	3	7	5	8	3	1
Merseyside	320	360	342	356	274	231	208
Metropolitan police	2,580	2,417	2,282	2,249	2,144	1,775	2,019
Norfolk	170	196	170	209	147	128	132
Northamptonshire	158	144	116	152	147	138	160
Northumbria	313	305	306	325	307	232	232
North Wales	106	132	148	156	99	142	161
North Yorkshire	126	115	132	134	128	119	150
Nottinghamshire	225	273	230	236	223	209	281
South Wales	174	177	165	193	240	232	271
South Yorkshire	181	170	261	294	241	219	186
Staffordshire	236	226	275	267	265	224	229
Suffolk	143	166	169	192	161	151	164
Surrey	127	138	120	135	134	144	174
Sussex	327	276	414	399	413	293	343
Thames Valley	335	409	377	425	411	356	414
Warwickshire	59	73	83	75	93	96	99
West Mercia	205	210	199	212	208	229	263
West Midlands	679	747	882	856	834	748	709
West Yorkshire	514	572	526	558	579	563	613
Wiltshire	147	131	97	138	141	128	125
Total	11,445	12,378	12,869	13,327	12,624	11,629	12,129

Notes:

1. The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
2. The data of the British Transport Police were included after the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002.

Serco

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the service standard performance of SERCO operations within his Department's Case Resolution Directorate was in each of the last three months. [320079]

Mr. Woolas: The chief executive of the UK Border Agency, Lin Homer will provide the Home Affairs Select Committee, in the next update, further information on the performance of Serco within the Case Resolution Directorate.

Sexual Offences

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has received recent reports on incidents of *(a)* sexual violence against female gang members by male members of the same gang and *(b)* sexual violence by male gang members against sisters and girlfriends of male members of rival gangs. [319781]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office does not collect individual crime reports. However, the Home Office is committed to increasing the reporting and conviction rates for rape and sexual violence, and works closely with the police and other stakeholders to ensure that women who have been victims of sexual violence come forward and, when they do, these crimes are investigated fully. As part of our drive to tackle sexual violence and ensure that victims are well supported we have been increasing the number of Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) and continuing to support Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) to aid police investigations and to provide good quality support to victims. In 2010-11 the Home Office will be spending approximately £2 million to supplement local funding for SARCs and ISVAs, bringing the total investment over the past six years to £14 million.

The Home Office also recently funded the launch of the Female Voice in Violence report by Race on the Agenda (ROTA), which examined the involvement of girls and young women in gangs. While the vast majority of victims and perpetrators of gang violence are men, there is a distinct and serious issue of young women's involvement with gangs as the ROTA report highlights. In recognition of the importance of this issue, the Home Office has already provided funding for a number of intelligence gathering and good practice events and are now looking at how the experience, knowledge and resources highlighted can be shared and developed.

Terrorism Act 2000: Stop and Search

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were stopped and searched under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [312842]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested covering 2007-08 and 2008-09 is provided in the following tables.

The data provided covering 2008-09 should be considered as provisional, fully verified data for 2008-09 will be published by the Home Office in the annual statistical report 'Police Powers and Procedures', which is scheduled to be published in April 2010.

Table 3c: Searches of pedestrians, vehicles and occupants under sections 44[1] and 44[2] of the Terrorism Act 2000

	2007-08				
	Q1	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*
Essex	66	238	773	631	1 708
Greater Manchester	0	172	9	0	181
Hampshire	470	1,182	475	435	2,562
Lancashire	0	510	0	0	510
London, City of	679	1,065	516	413	2,673
Merseyside	0	652	5	1	658
Metropolitan Police	7,508	28,865	28,943	36,435	101,751
South Wales	1,119	596	856	525	3,096
Surrey	645	585	654	675	2,559
Sussex[2]	238	487	310	310	1,345
Thames Valley	55	115	25	47	242
West Midlands	0	332	0	0	332
Other Forces[3]	132	488	193	193	1,006
England and Wales	10,912	35,287	32,759	39,665	118,623
BTP[4]	8,902	26,789	17,759	16,185	69,635
Scotland[5]	—	32	0	7	39
Great Britain	19,814	62,108	50,518	55,857	188,297

	2008-09 *(provisional data)*				
	Q1	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*
Essex	776	260	602	748	2,386
Greater Manchester	0	823	249	92	1,164
Hampshire	633	416	441	95	1,585
Lancashire	0	0	0	0	0
London City of	468	607	834	676	2,585
Merseyside	6	42	6	21	75
Metropolitan Police	39,049	43,736	54,631	47,670	185,086
South Wales	662	539	222	271	1,694
Surrey	613	287	53	49	1,002
Sussex[2]	184	320	429	274	1,207
Thames Valley	25	13	4	22	64
West Midlands	0	0	0	0	0
Other Forces[3]	155	106	126	109	496
England and Wales	42,571	47,150	57,596	50,027	197,344

	2008-09 (provisional data)				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
BTP[4]	15,256	15,983	15,378	11,905	58,522
Scotland[5]	30	56	52	22	160
Great Britain	57,857	63,189	73,026	61,954	256,026

[1] Does not include 'Vehicle Only' stops.

[2] Sussex police currently are unable to separate vehicle searches from passenger searches; as a consequence data here refers only to searches of pedestrians.

[3] Where initial individual annual force totals were below 100 for 2007-08 they have been grouped into 'Other Forces'.

[4] British Transport Police figures include both England and Wales, and Scotland.

[5] Scottish s44 authorisation commenced July 2007 following the Glasgow airport attack. Figures provided refer only to searches and detail a limited number of actual uses. Further data are available for the small numbers of individuals stopped.

Theft: Livestock

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken to tackle livestock theft. [320231]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The theft of livestock is a crime and is covered under the Theft Act 1968. The thrust of the Government's Crime Strategy makes local agencies accountable and responsive to the needs and priorities of the local community. Where livestock theft emerges as a pressing local issue there is a local framework in place for local police forces and community safety partnerships to allocate and devote appropriate resources to tackling this crime.

The Government also supports schemes such as Farm Watch and Countryside Watch, which are now operating across England and Wales, allowing farmers and those living in rural communities to share practical advice on crime prevention in order to look after their vehicles, property, families and animals.

A practical guide has also been produced by the National Policing Improvement Agency specifically for those facing the challenges of policing rural areas, titled Neighbourhood Policing in Rural Communities (2008). This offers advice on a range of issues specific to rural areas. The introduction of neighbourhood policing is transforming policing at a local level, so as to build a more responsive, locally accountable and citizen-focused police service to make communities safer and make them feel safer.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what role he expects Adult Safeguarded Learning funds to play in achieving the aims of the Learning Revolution White Paper. [320106]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 24 February 2010, *Official Report,* column 633W.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has to assist local authorities in Portsmouth to achieve the aims of the Learning Revolution White Paper. [320107]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 24 February 2010, *Official Report,* column 632W.

Credit

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to protect vulnerable families from unscrupulous money lenders. [320943]

Kevin Brennan: Since 2004 the Government have committed £16.5 million to tackling illegal money lending nationwide. Specialist teams operate across England and in Scotland and Wales. As well as identifying, arresting and prosecuting loan sharks, the teams are working with partners in the community to ensure victims get access to advice and support.

Last year, we launched the national hotline and the Stop Loan Sharks campaign on Direct.gov to warn against the dangers of illegal lending and to provide a clear and simple way to report a loan shark.

So far, the teams have:

Identified more than 900 illegal lenders, leading to more than 700 investigations;

Written off more than £30 million of illegal debt; (money that victims would have had to pay back)

Helped more than 10,000 people, including the most hard to reach individuals;

Seized and confiscated over £1 million cash;

Secured more than 150 successful prosecutions, with more in the pipelines; and

Secured more than 50 years in prison sentences, plus an indefinite sentence for public protection.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent assessment is of the effect on the ability of families to move out of poverty of consumer credit charged at high annual percentage rates. [320944]

Kevin Brennan: Government recognise that significant numbers of consumers are struggling with their finances. We believe that it is crucial that when people are in difficulty with debt they seek help as soon as possible. That is why Government have invested significantly in making expert financial advice freely available. We have supported a number of measures such as the FSA's Money Made Clear website and BIS's face to face debt advice project to help consumers keep control of their finances and manage their debt.

While we want to see fewer people taking on unsustainable amounts of debt, we recognise that even for people on low incomes access to credit can be vital, allowing them to respond to unexpected events or crisis. We are concerned that many consumers are unable to obtain credit from mainstream sources, leaving them with few options other than to seek credit from high cost lenders. Government are committed to providing a safety net for people in need who are struggling to find affordable credit. We have provided increased funds to community-based lenders such as credit unions to provide affordable loans and increased funding for the Social Fund which provides interest free loans to consumers at times of pressure or crisis.

We are keen to expand on our evidence base in this area and welcome the review that the Office of Fair Trading is currently conducting into the high cost credit sector. Their report is due out shortly and we will not hesitate to act if the review finds that further action is necessary to protect consumers.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to regulate doorstep lending; what his policy is for the future of such lending; and if he will make a statement. [320945]

Kevin Brennan: Government acknowledge that there are concerns regarding the home credit market. The Competition Commission investigated the home credit market in 2006 and as a result required providers in the sector to adopt remedies to address the problems it identified, such as lenders being required to share data on customers payment records, being required to publish their prices on a website where customers can compare the prices of loans and lenders giving a fair rebate to customers who repay their loans early. We are also putting in place a number of further measures to give consumers a more informed choice and to encourage responsible lending, including bringing in new requirements this year for lenders to provide adequate explanations to borrowers and to assess their creditworthiness. Any further changes in this area will need careful consideration and we are seeking to expand on our evidence base before determining whether existing remedies are working or if further action is needed. The OFT is reviewing the high cost credit market and is due to publish its findings and recommendations shortly. Government have pledged to respond quickly to the review.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible and *(c)* other body sponsored by his Department and its predecessor in each year since 2005. [319151]

Mr. McFadden: For advertising spend in 2008/09 and 2009/10 by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr. Hayes), 1 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 133-34W.

Spend on advertising procured through the Central Office of Information by the former BERR, DTI and DIUS from 2004/05 to 2007/08 is as follows:

BERR 2007/08	*Press*	*Radio*	*Poster*	*Media Total*
Nuclear Energy Consultation 2007/08	146,380	—	—	146,380
Employing People 2007/08	71,446	—	—	71,446
National Minimum Wage 2007/08	4,447	392,297	157,411	554,155
Total 2007/08	—	—	—	£771,981

DTI 2006/07	*Press*	*Radio*	*Poster*	*Media Total*
Consumer Direct—Thomson Directories 2006/07	581,424	—	—	581,424
DTI Classified Recruitment 2006/07	11,457	—	—	11,457
ACAS Miscellaneous Advertising Activity 2006/07	82,641	146,308	—	228,949
Total 2006/07	—	—	—	821,830

DTI 2005/06	*Press*	*Radio*	*Poster*	*Internet*	*Media Total*
Consumer Direct 2005/06	366,936	823,011	87,903	170,000	1,447,850
DTI Classified/Recruitment Advertising 2005/06	31,099	—	—	—	31,099
SBS Business Link 2005/06	1,502,301	—	—	—	1,502,301
New National Minimum Wage 2005/06	328,603	—	—	41,000	369,603
Directgov—DTI Employee Franchise 2005/06	117,690	—	—	10,000	127,690
Total 2005/06	—	—	—	—	3,478,543

DTI 2004/05	*Press*	*Radio*	*Poster*	*Media Total*
Consumer Direct 2004/05	170,600	326,738	209,150	706,488
SBS Business Link 2004/05	552,712	—	—	552,712
Import Licence Announcements 2004/05	74,300	—	—	74,300
DTI Classified Recruitment Advertising 2004/05	41,007	—	—	41,007

DTI 2004/05	*Press*	*Radio*	*Poster*	*Media Total*
New Minimum Wage 2004/05	315,754	—	—	315,754
Renewable Energy 2004/05	15,542	—	—	15,542
Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion 2004/05	30,494	—	—	30,494
Firework Safety 2004/05—(media only)	17,061	152,527	18,892	188,480
DTI—Dispute Resolution (media only)	81,768	—	—	81,768
SBS Press Media Buying Costs 2004/05	—	—	—	3,255
Total 2004/05	—	—	—	2,009,800

DIUS 2007/08	*Press*	*Television*	*Radio*	*Media Total*
Higher Education Student Finance 2007/08	229,751	1,198,017	597,984	2,025,702
Total 2007/08	—	—	—	2,025,702

Figures for advertising spend for each non-departmental public body could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 26 February 2010:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question how much was spent on advertising by (a) his Department, (b) each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible and (c) other body sponsored by his Department and its predecessor in each year since 2005.

The Insolvency Service has not spent anything on advertising since 2005.

Letter from Gareth Jones:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 23 February 2010, UIN 319151 to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House spent the following amounts on advertising in each of the five years since 2005:

	Advertising (£)
2005-06	356,229.00
2006-07	366,671.00
2007-08	223,657.00
2008-09	714,945.00

2008-2009 is the last year for which full figures are available.

The vast majority of expenditure in 2008-09 was spent on informing businesses of their obligations under the Companies Act.

Letter from John Alty, dated 25 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 23 February 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The amounts spent by the Intellectual Property Office on advertising in each calendar year were:

	£000
2005	17
2006	50
2007	28
2008	47
2009	122

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 24 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (NMO) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 23 February asking the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, how much was spent on advertising in each year since 2005.

The National Measurement Office spends very little on advertising and such expenditure is not separately identified in our accounting system. In practice, the principal use of advertising would be for recruitment purposes. Any paid advertising of the Agency or its services would be recorded as part of our marketing expenditure. The National Measurement Office has spent the following on these activities:

Between April to December 2005: £Nil on external recruitment advertising and £44,362.97 on marketing activities

In 2006: £10,487.00 on external recruitment advertising and £33,215.52 on marketing activities

In 2007: £11,472.27 on external recruitment advertising and £14,806.55 on marketing activities

In 2008: £11,622.95 on external recruitment advertising and £28,366.09 on marketing activities

In 2009: £11,852.50 on external recruitment advertising and £12,990.42 on marketing activities

The spend figures are not available for the period between January and March 2005.

Employment: Young People

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps he has taken to assist young people to obtain *(a)* work and *(b)* training. [311299]

Kevin Brennan: We have been taking a joined-up approach across Government to ensure that all young adults have the skills they need to obtain a meaningful job with prospects.

In July 2009 we launched Backing Young Britain, a national campaign bringing together businesses, the public sector and third sector organisations to provide a package of support for young people aged 18-24 through and leading out of the recession. The campaign asks organisations to commit to one of three overall aims:

Offering an Apprenticeship

Taking up DWP help to employ a young person

Providing a young person with experience of work

To date, the campaign has been endorsed by 465 organisations from across the private, public and third sectors. Through these opportunities young people can access thousands of work-focused training places, such as internships or Apprenticeships, as well as additional access to advice through mentoring links and Jobcentre Plus adviser time, and jobs through Routes into Work and the Future Jobs Fund.

We are creating at least 120,000 new jobs for young people through the Future Jobs Fund - the first six rounds of bidding will create up to 104,000 jobs. We have brought forward the Young Person's Guarantee so that all 18-24 year-olds still unemployed after six months will be guaranteed access to a job, work-focused training in FE, work experience or a place on a Community Task Force.

We have created the Graduate Talent Pool which has offered over 12,000 vacancies for graduate internships since the launch at the end of July. By March 2010, 20,000 graduate internships overall will have been created in the private, public and third sectors to help young people develop the skills they need to build their employability. For those new graduates who can't find work the Graduate Guarantee ensures that those still unemployed at six months will have access to an internship, training or help to become self employed.

Through the September Guarantee, we offer every 16 and 17 year-old a suitable place in learning. We are building on this with a January Guarantee in 2010, which will offer all 16 and 17 year-olds who are not in education, employment or training this month a place in Entry to Employment provision. We will invest a total of £8.2 billion in 2010-11 to fund learning for 1.6 million young people, and we will increase 16-19 funding by 0.9 per cent. in real terms in 2011-12 and 2012-13 to continue our commitment to the September Guarantee.

We have rescued and expanded Apprenticeships over the last 10 years. We are committing £140 million to provide 35,000 extra Apprenticeship places in 2009-10 and are providing employer subsidies to create 5,000 new Apprenticeships for 16 and 17 year-olds.

In 2010-11 we will switch significant resources from Train to Gain to create a further 35,000 Advanced Apprenticeship places for 19 to 30 year-olds. Boosting the number of Advanced Apprenticeships is critical to our plans for building the skills of young adults and promoting the overall economic health of the nation.

We are also widening participation in higher education, to ensure that all those with the potential and merit to benefit from HE are able and willing to do so.

In December 2009 DCSF, DWP and BIS published Investing in Potential, which sets out current support and our long-term strategy to increase the proportion of 16-24 year-olds in education, employment or training:

http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-01145-2009.

Manufacturing Industries: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Syms: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funds have been disbursed under the Automotive Assistance Scheme to date. [320488]

Ian Lucas: The Automotive Assistance Programme (AAP) Team has had contact with over 90 companies and continues to seek and receive new applications. Two formal offers of support have been made, which were not taken up due to the applicants' success in accessing financial support elsewhere. BIS officials remain in detailed negotiations with 11 other companies, with a pipeline of projects worth over £2 billion.

Minimum Wage: Marketing

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much expenditure his Department is planning as part of the National Minimum Wage outreach campaign in 2010; and what road shows are planned to take place in 2010 as part of the campaign. [320718]

Mr. McFadden: This year's national minimum wage outreach activity 2009/10, part of the wider Vulnerable Worker campaign, involved our mobile cafe touring the country, visiting 35 towns and cities. We are currently evaluating the whole campaign, so plans and priorities for 2010/11 have not yet been agreed.

Motor Vehicles: Government Assistance

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of greenhouse gas emissions of the vehicle scrappage scheme; [320317]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely change in the volume of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the vehicle scrappage scheme in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2011 and *(c)* 2012. [320320]

Ian Lucas: No detailed assessment has been made by this Department. According to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, average CO_2 emissions of a car bought through the scheme was 133.3 g/km, almost 10 per cent. below the overall new car market average and 26.8 per cent. below the average figure for a scrapped car.

Motor Vehicles: Sales

Mr. Syms: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of new car sales in the second quarter of 2010. [320593]

Ian Lucas: This Department does not forecast sales of cars in the UK.

Overseas Students: English Language

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number of overseas students in universities in academic year 2009-10 who had previously attended an English language school in the UK. [321315]

Mr. Lammy: Information on the number of foreign students in universities in 2009/10 who had previously attended an English language school is not held centrally.

In the 2008/09 academic year, there were 117,660 non-UK EU enrolments and 251,310 non-EU enrolments at UK higher education institutions.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of his Department's private finance initiative projects have been delayed because of problems obtaining finance; and what the monetary value is of each contract. [320564]

Mr. McFadden: Central records indicate that no BIS private finance initiative projects have been delayed because of problems obtaining finance.

Students: Loans

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the *(a)* monetary value of and *(b)* amount of interest incurred in respect of student loans in each year since 2004-05. [321116]

Mr. Lammy: The following table provides the total monetary value of both Mortgage Style and Income Contingent Loans and the amount of interest applied. The number of student loan borrowers has increased each year since loans were introduced in 1990, and it is therefore expected that the loan balance will increase annually. The increase is also due to the introduction of loans for tuition fees in 2006/07.

Student loan balance and interest applied: England[1]

£ million

Financial year	*Loan balance*[2]	*Interest applied*[3]
2004-05	13,033.4	254.0
2005-06	15,328.1	330.9
2006-07	18,125.5	394.3
2007-08	21,953.2	585.6
2008-09 (provisional)	25,972.4	759.5

[1] English domiciled students studying in the UK and EU students studying in England.
[2] Loan balance at end of each financial year.
[3] Interest applied during the financial year.
Source:
Student Loans Company

Union Modernisation Fund

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been paid to each trade union from the Union Modernisation Fund in each year since the fund was started. [319145]

Mr. McFadden: The information on how much has been paid to each trade union from the Union Modernisation Fund in each financial year since the fund started is as follows:

Grant paid to each trade union by financial year

Union	*Grant paid (£)*
Year ended 31 March 2007	
GMB	23,340.53
Wales Trade Union Congress	12,252.64
National Union of Teachers	7,377.84
Royal College of Midwives	43,329.35
Union of Finance Staff	7,083.30
United Road Transport Union	24,330.00
Community and District Nursing Association	8,125.65
British Dental Association	6,047.75
Connect	28,647.63
USDAW	104,011.73
National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers	32,409.00
National Union of Journalists	11,475.34
ASLEF	13,232.25
General Federation of Trade Unions	23,284.48
Portman Group Staff Association	6,070.70
Year ended 31 March 2008	
GMB	106,532.92
Communication Workers Union	29,008.85
Wales Trade Union Congress	29,708.34
National Union of Teachers	20,285.64
USDAW	5,783.00
Royal College of Midwives	88,135.28
Union of Finance Staff	41,776.70
Unity	15,192.76
United Road Transport Union	90,670.00
Equity	22,737.50
Transport and General Workers Union	47,535.05
Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union	17,241.06
Community and District Nursing Association	6,418.37
Community	63,453.00
British Dental Association	15,329.00
Transport Salaried Staffs' Association	46,618.70
Connect	28,988.12
USDAW	82,811.00
Prospect	78,621.69
National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers	161,245.00
National Union of Journalists	43,145.52
Trades Union Congress	62,695.00
Community and Youth Workers Union	16,915.96
Unite (Amicus)	128,105.62
ASLEF	58,245.47
General Federation of Trade Unions	74,623.90
Portman Group Staff Association	9,533.80
Musicians' Union	17,788.00
Chartered Society of Physiotherapy	2,845.00
Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians	5,983.00
Equity	7,091.30
Year ended 31 March 2009	
General Federation of Trade Unions	15,122.48
Trades Union Congress	39,863.19

Grant paid to each trade union by financial year

Union	*Grant paid (£)*
General Federation of Trade Unions	40,333.07
Musicians' Union	14,426.00
Association of Teachers and Lecturers	326.02
Unison	54,942.22
Association of Professionals in Education and Children's Trusts	5,100.00
Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians	7,957.50
Chartered Society of Physiotherapy	14,371.00
Accord	106,164.00
Broadcasting Entertainment Cinematograph and Theatre Union	40,957.97
First Division Association	27,437.00
Trades Union Congress	23,049.00
Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians	7,957.50
General Federation of Trade Unions	37,344.17
Nautilus UK	27,007.06
Equity	35,654.56
Unite (Amicus)	29,309.18
Retained Fire-fighters Union	51,930.68
Nationwide Group Staff Union	5,875.00
GMB	63,667.08
Communication Workers Union	116,159.35
Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union	33,405.42
Wales Trade Union Congress	83,001.18
Lloyds TSB Group Union	22,322.60
National Union of Teachers	35,267.02
British Dental Association	780.25
Prospect	28,197.78
Association of Professionals in Education and Children's Trusts	5,100.00
Prospect	20,591.40
Unison	87,515.50
Association of Professionals in Education and Children's Trusts	4,085.00
Association of Teachers and Lecturers	17,606.14
Community	23,151.00
Communication Workers Union	14,088.92
Communication Workers Union	20,359.04
National Union of Teachers	41,733.63
PCS	31,268.82
Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians	9,720.00
USDAW	71,532.90
Current financial year to date	
Association of Teachers and Lecturers	28,858.76
Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union	35,964.40
Communication Workers Union	21,931.14
First Division Association	81,509.00
General Federation of Trade Unions	23,707.63
National Union of Teachers	24,254.82
Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians	11,496.28
USDAW	26,938.50
Nautilus UK	6,834.31
Accord	30,587.50
Equity	14,103.55
General Federation of Trade Unions	53,978.98
GMB	63,937.54
Musicians Union	15,284.00
Unite (T&G)	88,302.00
Trade Union Congress	67,109.83
Unison	16,835.78
Unison	106,997.01
Unite (Amicus)	89,217.79
Broadcasting Entertainment Cinematograph and Theatre Union	128,096.20
Chartered Society of Physiotherapy	11,230.00
National Union of Schoolmasters, Union of Women Teachers	28,385.00
Trades Union Congress	52,683.23
Unison	79,543.50

Note:
Where some unions have more than one project, these have been itemised individually above.

TREASURY

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* disciplinary and *(b)* capability procedures have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed in his Department in each of the last five years; how much time on average was taken to complete each type of procedure in each such year; how many and what proportion of his Department's staff were subject to each type of procedure in each such year; and how many and what proportion of each type of procedure resulted in the dismissal of the member of staff. [320624]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: It is the Treasury's policy not to release full details relating to numbers of staff fewer than five where to do so might lead to the identification of individual cases.

On that basis the number of disciplinary and capability cases in the Treasury in each of the last five years were as follows:

	Disciplinary	*Capability*
2005	Fewer than 5	Fewer than 5
2006	0	Fewer than 5
2007	Fewer than 5	Fewer than 5
2008	Fewer than 5	0
2009	0	0

With regard to capacity issues, the Department only records those that have led to dismissals.

Information on average time taken to complete each type of procedure is not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information technology projects initiated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were cancelled prior to completion in the last 12 months; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [320420]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No information technology projects have been cancelled in the last 12 months in the Chancellor's Department or agencies.

Departmental Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Syms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies, *(c)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(d)* the Valuation Office Agency have appointed who were later discovered to be illegal immigrants since 2005. [320500]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: None.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [320539]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No Ministers and 13 civil servants received coaching in a foreign language in the period March 2009 to February 2010.

The languages covered were French and Arabic, with an expenditure of £20,380.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made on the most recent EU review of minimum rates of excise duty to be applied to alcohol and alcoholic beverages. [319955]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The European Commission proposed revisions to the EU directive setting minimum rates of excise duty on alcoholic beverages in September 2006. Following two discussions at ministerial level at ECOFIN in November 2006, when it was not possible to reach agreement, successive EU presidencies have chosen not to schedule further Council discussions of the dossier. We understand that the Spanish presidency currently has no plans to do so either.

Government Departments: Carbon Emissions

Charles Hendry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 876W, on the Sustainable Development Commission: Treasury, for what reason the baseline carbon emissions of *(a)* the Home Office and *(b)* the Ministry of Justice have been changed. [320361]

Ian Pearson: Baseline changes are tightly managed at the centre of government and are permitted for two reasons:

1. A baseline adjustment—relating to changes to the estate. A baseline adjustment is permitted in instances when an organisation takes on or relinquishes specific functions or responsibilities (for example takes responsibility for an additional Executive agency).

2. A baseline correction—relating to changes to the data. A baseline correction can be made where baseline data previously supplied is incorrect or incomplete. In Instances where additional or more accurate data for the baseline year comes to light the original baseline data can be revised.

The Home Office (HO) Carbon from Offices baseline was amended in 2008-09 to account for machinery of government changes. These involved the transfer of the Southport building from the Office for National Statistics, and the export of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) non-custodial buildings to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ). The NOMS transfer was deferred from 2007-08 to enable the proper separation of baseline data. In reviewing the baseline to facilitate the separation, Home Office identified better quality data for its own core department. This improvement also formed part of the amendment in 2008-09.

The Ministry of Justice Carbon from Offices baseline was amended in 2008-09 to account for the transfer of the NOMS non-custodial buildings from Home Office, and in response to reviews of energy consumption data held by HM Courts Service and the National Archives, which resulted in the availability of better quality baseline data for both organisations. Subsequently, the MOJ baseline was corrected to exclude the NOMS non-custodial element, as during the 2008-09 reporting phase it became clear that NOMS could not report a full consumption data across the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate target areas. MOJ aims to ensure NOMS reports fully in 2009-10.

Valuation Office Agency: Local Government

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 782W, on Valuation Office: local government, which local authorities in England provide building control notices to the Valuation Office Agency *(a)* in hard copy, *(b)* by e-mail and *(c)* through the Valuebill/e-BARs interface. [319322]

Ian Pearson: The following local authorities currently send or have recently sent some building control notices to the Valuation Office Agency.

Allerdale
Ashfield
Ashford
Aylesbury Vale
Barking and Dagenham
Barnet
Barnsley
Barrow
Basildon
Basingstoke and Deane

Bexley
Blackburn
Bolsover
Bolton
Bournemouth
Bracknell Forest
Breckland
Brent
Brentwood
Brighton and Hove
Bristol City
Bromley
Bromsgrove
Broxtowe
Burnley
Camden
Cannock Chase
Canterbury
Carlisle
Chelmsford
Cheltenham
Cherwell
Chesterfield
Chiltern
Chorley
Christchurch
City of London
Copeland
Cotswold
Croydon
Darlington
Derby
Derbyshire Dales
Doncaster
Dover
Dudley
Durham
Ealing
East Dorset
East Hants
East Riding
East Staffs
Eastleigh
Eden
Elmbridge
Enfield
Epping Forest
Exeter
Fareham
Forest Heath
Fylde
Gateshead
Gloucester
Gosport
Gravesham
Great Yarmouth
Harlow
Harrow
Hart
Hartlepool
Havant
Havering
Hereford
Hinckley and Bosworth
Hounslow
Hull
Ipswich
Isle of Wight
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk
Kingston
Lambeth
Lancaster
Lewisham
Lichfield
Malvern Hills
Manchester
Medway
Mendip
Merton
Mid Devon
Mole Valley
New Forest
Newcastle under Lyme
Newcastle upon Tyne
Newham
North Devon
North Dorset
North East Lincs
North Lincs
North Norfolk
North Somerset
North Tyneside
Nottingham
Oldham
Oxford
Pendle
Plymouth
Poole
Portsmouth
Preston
Purbeck
Reading
Redbridge
Redcar and Cleveland
Redditch
Reigate and Banstead
Ribble Valley
Richmond upon Thames
Rossendale
Rotherham
Runnymede
Rushcliffe
Rushmoor
Rutland
Sedgemoor
Sevenoaks
Sheffield
Shepway

- Shropshire
- Slough
- Solihull
- South Gloucestershire
- South Ribble
- South Somerset
- South Staffs
- South Tyneside
- Southampton
- Southwark
- Spelthorne
- St. Edmundsbury
- Stafford
- Staffordshire Moorlands
- Stockton
- Stoke-on-Trent
- Suffolk Coastal
- Sunderland
- Surrey Heath
- Swale
- Tameside
- Tamworth
- Tandridge
- Taunton Deane
- Teignbridge
- Telford
- Test Valley
- Tewkesbury
- Thanet
- Torbay
- Torridge
- Trafford
- Tunbridge Wells
- Walsall
- Waltham Forest
- Wandsworth
- Waveney
- Waverley
- Wealden
- West Berkshire
- West Dorset
- West Lancashire
- West Somerset
- Weymouth and Portland
- Wiltshire
- Winchester
- Woking
- Wokingham
- Wolverhampton
- Worcester
- Wychavon
- Wyre Forest

All of the details arrive by either *(a)* hard copy or *(b)* e-mail. It is difficult to provide definitive details as some local authorities do and have used both methods.

No building control notices are received by *(c)* Valuebill/ e-BARs.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report,* column 782W, on the Valuation Office: local government, which local authorities in England do not provide building control notices to the Valuation Office Agency. [319649]

Ian Pearson: The following local authorities in England do not currently send or have not recently sent building control notices to the Valuation Office Agency.

- Adur
- Amber Valley
- Arun
- Babergh
- Bassetlaw
- Bath and North East Somerset
- Bedford
- Birmingham
- Blaby
- Blackpool
- Boston
- Bradford
- Braintree
- Broadland
- Broxbourne
- Bury
- Calderdale
- Cambridge City
- Castle Point
- Central Beds
- Charnwood
- Cheshire East
- Cheshire West
- Chichester
- Colchester
- Corby
- Cornwall
- Coventry
- Craven
- Crawley
- Dacorum
- Dartford
- Daventry
- East Cambs
- East Devon
- East Hertfordshire
- East Lindsey
- East Northamptonshire
- Eastbourne
- Epsom and Ewell
- Erewash
- Fenland District
- Forest of Dean
- Gedling
- Greenwich
- Guildford
- Hackney
- Halton
- Hambleton
- Hammersmith and Fulham

Harborough
Haringey
Harrogate
Hastings
Hertsmere
High Peak
Hillingdon
Horsham
Huntingdon District
Hyndburn
Isles of Scilly
Islington
Kensington and Chelsea
Kettering
Kirklees
Knowsley
Leeds
Leicester
Lewes
Lincoln
Liverpool
Luton
Maidstone
Maldon
Mansfield
Melton
Mid Suffolk
Middlesbrough
Mid Sussex
Milton Keynes
Newark and Sherwood
North East Derbyshire
North Hertfordshire
North Kesteven
North Warwickshire
North West Leicestershire
Northampton
Northumberland
Norwich
Nuneaton. and Bedworth
Oadby and Wigston
Peterborough
Richmondshire
Rochdale
Rochford
Rother
Rugby
Ryedale
Salford
Sandwell
Scarborough
Sefton
Selby
South Buckinghamshire
South Cambs
South Derbyshire
South Hams
South Holland
South Kesteven
South Lakeland
South Norfolk
South Northamptonshire
South Oxon
Southend on Sea
St. Albans
St. Helens
Stevenage
Stockport
Stratford on Avon
Stroud
Sutton
Swindon
Tendring
Three Rivers
Thurrock
Tonbridge and Malling
Tower Hamlets
Uttlesford
Vale of White Horse
Wakefield
Warrington
Warwick
Watford
Wellingborough
Welwyn Hatfield
West Devon
West Lindsey
West Oxon
Westminster
Wigan
Windsor and Maidenhead
Wirral
Worthing
Wycombe
Wyre
York

VAT

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment has been made of the effect on the economy of the recent change to the rate of value added tax; what recent representations he has received on this issue; from whom; what response he gave in each case; and if he will make a statement. [320653]

Mr. Timms: The annual rate of CPI inflation rose in January, partly due to the pre-announced reversal of the cut in the VAT rate back to 17.5 per cent. The 2009 pre-Budget report forecast assumes that businesses will smooth the pass-through of the reversal of the VAT rate cut, with inflation peaking in early 2010. It is assumed that households will have brought forward some consumption from 2010 to 2009 as a result of the lower relative prices associated with the reversion of the temporary cut in the standard rate of VAT. Consumer spending is forecast to grow over 2010 as a whole. The Government will set out their latest assessment of economic prospects at Budget.

The Government receive a wide range of representations on tax and other issues: which they seek to take account of in formulating economic policy.

As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of such representations.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 9 March 2010

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Security

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what work his Department is undertaking to test systems for screening liquids in airports. [321188]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has worked with European partners to establish agreed criteria for the testing of liquids screening systems, and is currently working with manufacturers to share data and consider opportunities for operational trials.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department had spent on concessionary bus travel for pensioners in *(a)* Gloucestershire and *(b)* Stroud constituency on the latest date for which figures are available. [321039]

Mr. Khan: From April 2008, the Department for Transport has provided additional special grant funding to local authorities to cover the extra cost of providing the extension to the concession; which now guarantees free off-peak local bus travel across England to all eligible older and disabled residents:

(a) A total of £2,468,030 in 2008-09 and £2,526,238 in 2009-10 to all of the travel concession authorities (TCAs) in the county of Gloucestershire (which includes the unitary authority of South Gloucestershire council and Stroud district council);

(b) £237,197 in 2008-09 and £242,791 in 2009-10 to Stroud district council.

(c) Communities and Local Government (CLG) continues to provide the bulk of concessionary travel funding to local authorities through Formula Grant. Before 1 April 2008, funding for the statutory minimum bus concession was provided exclusively through the Formula Grant system.

The Department for Transport did however provide £31 million of grant to England in 2007-08 for the cost of producing and issuing the new England-wide bus passes to all those eligible, of which a total of £539,760 went to the TCAs of Gloucestershire; this includes Stroud's allocation of £40,736.

Geographical Information Systems

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much had been spent on the Galileo Project as at 1 March 2010; and what future funding is planned for the project. [320229]

Mr. Khan: The European Union (EU) and member states of the European Space Agency (ESA) have jointly funded the design and development of Galileo. The deployment and operational phase of the programme and all future costs are the responsibility of the EU.

€1.6 billion is the approximate committed spend on the design and development of the system. The majority of this has been funded by ESA who provided €1.46 billion, with the remainder funded by the EU. The UK share of the ESA contribution is €168.05 million, of which €161.1 million has been paid and the UK is committed to pay the remainder during 2010. UK contributions to ESA funds are for use in all its expenditure and are not calculated on an individual programme basis.

The current phase of the Galileo programme, the deployment and operation of the system (2010-13), will see the Galileo programme achieve full operational capability (FOC) and is currently being procured by ESA on behalf of the European Commission. The EU funding of Galileo between 2007 and 2013 has been capped at €3.4 billion.

The European Commission has estimated a further £6 billion will be needed for operation and maintenance costs from 2013-30. We expect the commission to bring forward, in spring of this year, proposals for how funding after 2013 might be sourced and what elements might come from private and public sources.

Government Car and Despatch Agency: Driving Offences

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many driving offences of each type have been committed by those who drive Ministers whilst on duty for the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last three years. [320792]

Paul Clark: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 859W.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Syms: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many staff his Department and its agencies have appointed who were later discovered to be illegal immigrants since 2005. [320449]

Chris Mole: In each of the last five years, there have been no illegal immigrants found to be working as a Department for Transport employee.

In December 2008, one illegal immigrant was found to be working at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority as an employee of a contractor and was arrested on 10 December 2008. The contractor carried out all relevant checks prior to employment but was deceived by the forged documentation provided by this individual.

People employed to work in Government Departments and their agencies, either directly or through a contractor, are required to satisfy requirements on identity, nationality and immigration status prior to the offer of employment. On the one occasion within the last five years where compliance checks have found illegal immigrants working for Department for Transport contractors, the individual was kept in detention until his appearance in court on 12 January 2009.

Pilots: Licensing

Mr. Todd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how he will ensure the Civil Aviation Authority fulfils its commitment to maintain the UK Instruments Meteorological Conditions Pilots Licence rating. [321152]

Paul Clark: I am not aware of any such commitment by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The CAA, with the support of the Government, continues to work to influence the development of European requirements with the aim of helping the European Aviation Safety Agency meet its primary objective of ensuring a high uniform level of safety.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 208W, on roads: snow and ice, how much the Highways Agency has spent on salt from overseas suppliers in each of the last 12 years. [320821]

Mr. Khan: The Highways Agency does not purchase salt directly, as this is the responsibility of their contracted service providers, as part of their requirement to deliver the winter service to keep the strategic network safe and open during severe winter weather. Consequently the Highways Agency has not purchased any overseas salt over the last 12 years, except, as a result of the national salt shortages experienced over the last two winter seasons, the Highways Agency has helped facilitate the importation of overseas salt to its service providers.

In 2008-09 season, the Highways Agency helped to import approximately 58,000 tonnes of salt, with a further 127,000 tonnes imported in the 2009-10 winter season. The price paid by the Highways Agency's service providers varies between £50-£95 per tonne, depending on the salt supplier and haulage distances.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 208W, on roads: snow and ice, how much salt was used on the strategic network in each of the last 12 years. [320823]

Mr. Khan: The Highways Agency is responsible for maintaining and operating the strategic trunk road and motorway network in England on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport. Actual delivery of the maintenance activities, including winter maintenance, is carried out by the agency's contracted service providers.

As well as delivering precautionary salt treatments and snow ploughing during severe winter weather, the agency's service providers are required to maintain sufficient salt stocks to treat their part of the network. These activities are paid for within lump sum payments and as such, information on individual elements such as salt volume used is not routinely collected and is not therefore readily available.

Following the end of the winter maintenance period, the Highways Agency will examine the levels of salt used during periods of adverse weather to determine best practice for future years.

Snow and Ice

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the aggregate cost to local authorities in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* England of repairs to local roads as a result of the recent cold weather. [321297]

Mr. Khan: The maintenance of local roads in England is a matter for each local highway authority. It is for each individual authority to assess which parts of its network are in need of repair and what standards should be applied, based upon their local knowledge.

It will be for local highway authorities to estimate the costs of repairing damage to their roads, including where they consider damage was caused by this winter.

Waterloo Station

Susan Kramer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what consideration he has given to the development of the former Eurostar platforms at Waterloo station for purposes other than for domestic passenger transport. [321399]

Chris Mole: It has always been the Department for Transport's intention to bring the former Eurostar platforms at Waterloo back into use for domestic passenger services.

There are no plans for any other permanent use; although a series of theatrical performances are being staged during summer and autumn 2010 for the benefit of the Railway Children charity before the platforms are brought back into use for domestic services.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information was provided by Nottinghamshire county council to his Department on its mineral plans and aggregates levy sustainability fund (ALSF) spending criteria in reaching devolved ALSF funding agreements with his Department. [321032]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Funding for a number of local authorities, including Nottinghamshire, that are most affected by aggregates extraction is provided direct from DEFRA via the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) on the basis that the authorities themselves will have discretion over where that funding is spent. There are no "devolved funding agreements" in the way suggested.

Information on the individual projects funded through the ALSF has been provided via the project database on the DEFRA website and includes project details, location, cost and match funding.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of minerals extracted from quarries in Nottinghamshire was from the parish of Misson in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much aggregates levy sustainability fund money has been spent in projects in Misson in the last 10 years. [321033]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Nottinghamshire county council has informed us that 6 per cent. of the aggregates extracted from quarries in Nottinghamshire came from the parish of Misson (from most recent (2008) figures from the East Midlands Aggregates Working Party).

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) money has only been available for community theme ("Objective 5") projects in Nottinghamshire since 2005-06. No ALSF Delivery Partner has recorded money being spent on projects in Misson on the DEFRA ALSF database.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the executive agencies for which he is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in (i) his Department and (ii) the executive agencies is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff. [317890]

Dan Norris: The following table shows the number and percentage of staff in DEFRA and its agencies that have declared that they are disabled. The figures are as at 31 January 2010, except for RPA which are as at 31 March 2009.

Known disabled staff

	Number	*Percentage of declared*	*Percentage of all staff*
DEFRA	128	19.1	5.1
AH	109	28.4	6.1
CEFAS	30	n/a	5.4
FERA	43	7.9	5.0
MFA	5	13.5	2.1
RPA	304	n/a	10.4
VLA	135	14.3	10.5
VMD	6	10.9	3.7

Key to table:
AH—Animal Health
CEFAS—Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Agriculture Research
FERA—Food and Environment Research Agency
MFA—Marine and Fisheries Agency
RPA—Rural Payments Agency
VLA—Veterinary Laboratories Agency
VMD—Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

The following table shows the average (mean) salaries of staff who have declared their disability status. Salaries do not include allowances or bonuses. A breakdown by grade grouping has been included for full-time staff in the table, except for CEFAS for whom the information is not available. No breakdown by grade has been provided for part-time staff as the numbers are too small to provide a meaningful comparison. The figures are as at 31 January 2010, except for RPA which are as at 31 March 2009.

Average salaries

				£
			Known disabled	*Known non-disabled*
DEFRA	Full-time	AA/AO	21,412	21,024
		EO	26,731	26,302
		HEO/SEO	33,984	34,269
		G7 and above	60,554	53,962
		All grades	36,174	38,358
	Part-time	All grades	37,573	37,461
AH	Full-time	AA/AO	18,163	18,762
		EO	25,142	24,523
		HEO/SEO	30,857	30,632
		G7 and above	53,036	50,360
		All grades	24,529	28,863
	Part-time	All grades	23,266	25,634
CEFAS	Full-time	All grades	19,950	25,400
	Part-time	All grades	—	23,810
FERA	Full-time	AA/AO	16,476	16,803
		EO	22,589	22,598
		HEO/SEO	33,033	31,197
		G7 and above	48,725	50,358
		All grades	26,463	28,993
	Part-time	All grades	26,193	26,296
MFA	Full-time	AA/AO	—	20,734
		EO	25,819	24,893
		HEO/SEO	30,486	35,962
		G7 and above	—	51,625
		All grades	28,619	33,680
	Part-time	All grades	—	—
RPA	Full-time	AA/AO	18,185	17,773
		EO	24,063	23,505
		HEO/SEO	29,935	30,827
		G7 and above	48,050	51,566
		All grades	22,669	23,791
	Part-time	All grades	20,870	22,128
VLA	Full-time	AA/AO	18,311	18,292
		EO	24,057	24,078
		HEO/SEO	34,608	35,972
		G7 and above	53,191	54,204
		All grades	24,776	26,727
	Part-time	All grades	22,696	24,688
VMD	Full-time	AA/AO	21,051	21,502
		EO	28,325	26,567
		HEO/SEO	34,584	34,887
		G7 and above	—	51,133

Average salaries

£

			Known disabled	*Known non-disabled*
		All grades	2[illegible],253	31,575
	Part-time	All grades	34,515	29,693

Key to table:
AH—Animal Health
CEFAS—Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Agriculture Research
FERA—Food and Environment Research Agency
MFA—Marine and Fisheries Agency
RPA—Rural Payments Agency
VLA—Veterinary Laboratories Agency
VMD—Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

The figures on a grade by grade basis show that the differences between disabled and non-disabled staff are very small. In some grades the average salary of disabled staff is higher than that of non-disabled staff.

Although declaring disability status is not mandatory in DEFRA, we do encourage staff to declare their status to enable effective monitoring of HR policies.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many designs for its website his Department has commissioned since 2005. [318652]

Dan Norris: DEFRA has commissioned only one website redesign since its creation in 2001. This took place in 2009 and the new-look website was launched on 17 September 2009.

Dogs: Animal Welfare

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to increase the level of *(a)* detection and *(b)* enforcement action in respect of incidents of dog fighting. [320590]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Police are provided with powers under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (as amended) for tackling dog fighting. Last year we provided Association of Chief Police Officers with funding to help police forces to train dedicated "dog legislation officers" who are familiar with the law on dangerous dogs.

However, it [illegible]or chief officers to decide how they target their resources to tackling or reducing crime in their particular force area.

Fish: Animal Feed

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether his Department has made an assessment of the effects on the economy of a ban on fishmeal in organic animal feeds; and if he will make a statement; [320843]

(2) what assessment has been made of the likelihood of increased fishmeal usage in organic animal feeds due to the reclassification of fish as a non-agricultural ingredient; and if he will make a statement; [320844]

(3) whether his Department has made an evaluation of the nutritional value of *(a)* organic animal feed and *(b)* animal feed containing fishmeal; and if he will make a statement. [320845]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We are aware that there is considerable concern in the industry about the practicality of complying with the requirement of EU rules for organic production that after 1 January 2012 organic pigs and poultry must be fed entirely on organically produced feed. We understand that providing a diet with a properly balanced protein content using wholly organically produced ingredients is a particular concern because of the difficulties with sourcing the correct protein ingredients for feed for organic pigs and poultry. DEFRA's Advisory Committee on Organic Standards is investigating how this issue might be dealt with, including how the use of fishmeal might contribute to a solution to the problem.

Fisheries: Carbon Emissions

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much in carbon dioxide emissions was given off by the fishing fleet in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2007, *(e)* 2008 and *(f)* 2009; and if he will make a statement. [320842]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Figures are not available in relation to actual emissions from UK fishing vessels. However, an assessment of the total emissions from the fisheries sector for 2[illegible]06 has been provided in DEFRA's Food 2030 strategy. This states that, as a total of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the UK food chain by sector, fisheries accounted for 1mt of the 160mt CO_2e produced.

Available data over the period of 2000-08 indicate that for the UK fishing fleet there has been a reduction in engine capacity and fishing effort, as well as a move toward less fuel intensive fishing methods. This information is in the following tables.

Table 1. Development of U[illegible]egistered fishing fleet, as at 1 January

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
10m and under							
Number	5,730	5,591	5,527	5,589	5,439	5,404	5,169
Total Tonnage	18,779	18,910	19,018	19,156	18,961	18,895	18,295
Total engine power	277,610	278,475	279,697	284,443	280,079	280,824	274,170
Over 10m							
Number	2,134	2,060	2,032	1,835	1,700	1,636	1,590
Total Tonnage	248,255	246,152	245,269	221,878	210,380	204,458	199,814
Total engine power	695,590	697,057	717,595	658,274	632,923	620,399	605,541
Total Fleet							
Number	7,864	7,651	7,559	7,424	7,139	7,040	6,759

Table 1: Development of UK registered fishing fleet, as at 1 January

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Total Tonnage	267,034	265,062	264,287	241,033	229,341	223,353	218,110
Total engine power	973,199	975,533	997,292	942,717	913,003	901,224	879,711

	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*Change over period (-ve is reduction)*	*% change over period (-ve is reduction)*	*Reduction through decommissioning and pelagic aggregations over period*	*Period due to decomm Etc (-ve is reduction)*
10m and under							
Number	5,208	5,243	5,081	-649	-11%	—	—
Total Tonnage	18,411	18,461	17,923	-856	-5%	—	—
Total engine power	277,803	281,893	274,598	-3012	-1%	—	—
Over 10m							
Number	1,555	1,534	1,506	-628	-29%	-329	-15%
Total Tonnage	196,678	194,417	190,048	-58,208	-23%	-40,950	-16%
Total engine power	588,310	577,806	564,780	-130,809	-19%	-119,726	-17%
Total Fleet							
Number	6,763	6,777	6,87	-1,277	-16%	-329	-4%
Total Tonnage	215,089	212,878	207,971	-59,063	-22%	-40,950	-15%
Total engine power	866,113	859,699	839,378	-133,821	-14%	-119,726	-12%

Table 2: Over 10m UK active fishing fleet—details by data collection regulation segmentation. Segmentation based on fishing effort during the year in question

Heading	*Fleet segment*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*% change over period (-ve is reduction)*
Effort - KW Days at sea (million)	Mobile - beam trawl	20,552	21,725	18,425	17,650	17,581	16,106	13,208	11,996	8,030	-61
	Mobile - demersal trawl/seine	83,921	78,713	70,474	62,743	54,774	49,184	46,050	44,634	45,861	-45
	Mobile - dredge	7,235	6,916	6,782	6,446	6,852	7,068	6,405	6,412	5,851	-19
	Mobile - pelagic	15,877	15,149	15,544	16,701	17,186	13,568	10,447	11,035	9,439	-41
	Mobile - polyvalent	0,268	0,169	0,187	0,212	0,213	0,165	0,085	0,169	0,160	-40
	Passive - drift and fixed nets	5,426	5,849	5,748	4,989	4,957	4,303	2,674	2,156	1,963	-64
	Passive - gears using hooks	2,268	2,085	2,319	1,286	1,319	1,836	3,036	3,296	3,038	34
	Passive - pots and traps	5,918	6,331	6,232	7,170	6,917	6,762	6,654	7,392	6,947	17
	Passive - polyvalent	0,140	0,020	0,028	0,027	0,045	0,040	0,000	0,000	0,000	-100
	Polyvalent - mobile and passive gears	0,000	0,001	0,014	0,013	0,001	0,001	0,001	0,046	0,024	—
	Total active fleet	141,605	136,958	125,752	117,239	109,843	99,033	88,561	87,136	81,312	-43

Oils: Waste Disposal

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has undertaken a life cycle assessment of re-refining waste oils into lubricants by *(a)* burning waste oils as recovered fuel oil in European Waste Incineration Directive-compliant plants and *(b)* other means of disposal of waste oils. [320750]

Dan Norris: DEFRA has not commissioned specific studies on the life cycle assessment of re-refining waste oils into lubricants. However, we are aware of the following life cycle studies conducted by others:

Ecological and energetic assessment of re-refining used oils to base oils: Substitution of primarily produced base oils including semi-synthetic and synthetic compounds:

http://www.geir-rerefining.org/documents/LCA_en_short_version.pdf

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Improving Recycling Report ENV/EPOC/WGWPR(2005)3/FINAL:

http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/24/14/35582045.pdf

Critical Review of Existing Studies and Life Cycle Analysis on the Regeneration and Incineration of Waste Oils:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/studies/oil/waste_oil_xsum.pdf

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to encourage chicken producers to meet the conditions of the RSPCA's Freedom Food scheme. [320849]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Farmers can join a specific assurance scheme or adopt standards which go beyond those required by law if they so wish. The Government encourage membership of the relevant sector assurance schemes such as Red Tractor and Freedom Food. It is not Government's role, however, to promote one specific assurance scheme over another.

Public Holidays

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the introduction of an additional public holiday; and if he will make a statement. [315119]

Dan Norris: DEFRA would not incur any additional cost to the pay bill, as staff would merely be paid for a day on which they were not working rather than one on which they were.

Sheep: Slaughterhouses

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has made a recent assessment of the effects on *(a)* market transparency and *(b)* price comparison of variations in standards of sheep carcase dressing; and if he will bring forward legislative proposals to reinstate the dressing specification previously enforced by the Meat and Livestock Commission. [320806]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A report was prepared for DEFRA in November 2008 reviewing the EU carcase classification system for beef and sheep in the light of common agricultural policy reform. This included an assessment of the need for classification in providing transparency.

Under EU legislation, classification of sheep carcases according to the Community scale remains voluntary for member states. DEFRA has no plans to bring forward legislative proposals to make such classification compulsory. Dressing specifications for sheep carcases are a matter for industry supply chains.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many full-time equivalent staff of each grade are employed by his Department to assist special advisers. [321141]

Mr. Woodward: It is the primary responsibility of one member of the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) to assist special advisers. The staff member is at executive officer (EO) level and carries out other tasks too.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on office refurbishments in each of the last 10 years. [320506]

Ann McKechin: Under the terms of its building leases the Office is required to maintain the buildings to an acceptable standard of decoration and repair. In the case of the Scotland Office's London premises this includes maintaining a grade one listed building of considerable architectural significance. The Scotland Office does not separately identify the costs of refurbishment from the routine repair and replacement of existing facilities. Over the period of the last 10 years, the Office has shared its accommodation with a number of other Government Departments. The following figures show the gross total for repairs and maintenance of Scotland Office buildings, but does not include the contribution by those Departments towards their share of the costs.

	Gross cost (£)
1999-2000	150,354
2000-01	224,719
2001-02	179,335
2002-03	99,340
2003-04	179,853
2004-05	374,129
2005-06	331,803
2006-07	355,071
2007-08[1]	1,011,254
2008-09	401,010

[1] Under the terms of the building leases the Office is required to maintain the buildings to an acceptable standard of decoration and repair, which in 2007-08 included roof and exterior repairs to Dover House in London.

DEFENCE

Air Force: Snow and Ice

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what snow clearance equipment is available at Royal Air Force bases. [320915]

Bill Rammell: The RAF has a variety of Snow and Ice Clearance (SNIC) equipment for the purpose of clearing aircraft and their operating surfaces, such as runways, and roads. This ranges from specialist vehicles for clearing snow and ice from runways and aircraft to ploughs and gritters for roads. Details of the types of SNIC equipment held can be found in the following table:

Description	*Purpose*	*Number held*
Trailer Sicard	Towed runway snow clearing rotating brush and blowers	47
Rolba	Self-propelled snow clearing, rotating cutter for deep snow	18
[illegible]iler 6000L Team	Trailer towed chemical de-icing spray for aircraft dispersal	48
Trailer 2500L Team	Trailer towed chemical spray for runway de-icing	20
Hydro-Chafer	Trailer towed chemical spray for runway de-icing	3

Description	*Purpose*	*Number held*
Trailer 3000L Knights	Trailer towed chemical spray for runway de-icing	21
LADS 10,000 Litre	Self-propelled runway de-icing with snow plough	9
Douglas Aircraft De-Icer	Self propelled high access for aircraft de-icing	12
SDI Aircraft De-icer	Self-propelled high access for aircraft de-icing	7
MATT Snow Plough	Medium snow plough for clearing up to two inches of snow, aircraft dispersals	45
L Blade Snow Plough	Large snow plough for clearing runways (fits to large refueller)	28
K Blade	Large snow plough for clearing runways (fits to Schmidt Runway Sweepers)	6
Trailer Road Gritter 2000 Kg Load	Loose material spreader for roads	36
Trailer Road Gritter 1000 Kg Load	Loose material spreader for roads	9
Land Rover Snow Plough	Small plough for road clearing	14
4 Tonne Vehicle Snow Plough	Medium snow plough for road clearing	14

These resources are adequate for RAF requirements with priority given to operational stations. When required SNIC assets can be relocated as needed.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how long on average each patient stayed at DMRC Headley Court in each month since January 2003. [318475]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Using information held on the Defence Patient Tracking System (DPTS), the following table presents the average (mean) length of stay in days for in-patients and residential patients admitted into the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) Headley Court in each month from October 2008 to November 2009.

Month of Admission	*Average (mean) length of admission (days)*	
	In-patients	*Residential patients*
October 2008	38	17
November 2008	30	17
December 2008	28	13
January 2009	17	21
February 2009	25	19
March 2009	23	18
April 2009	17	19
May 2009	17	16
June 2009	16	18
July 2009	23	19
August 2009	19	21
September 2009	25	18
October 2009	23	19
November 2009	23	20

Notes:
1. Patients include Naval Service Personnel, Army Personnel including those from the Gibraltar Regiment, RAF Personnel, Reservists and UK Civilians. These exclude Special Forces and Other Nations' Service Personnel.
2. The DPTS is a live system that is constantly being updated. Therefore data are provisional and subject to change.
3. For any patient admitted more than once as an in-patient or residential patient between October 2008 and November 2009, the length of each admission has been calculated separately.
4. An in-patient is a patient that has been admitted and allocated a ward bed. A residential patient is a patient that is on a three week rehabilitation course; they are not allocated a ward bed, but reside in dormitory style accommodation.

Data prior to this period could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Data for later months are still being compiled, including for patients whose stay at Headley Court continues; patients who have not yet completed their stay at DMRC are not included in the figures shown.

Armed Forces: Housing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there will be Barnett consequentials for Scotland from the funding for the Armed Forces Home Ownership Scheme in England. [321216]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This pilot scheme for armed forces personnel is being funded from the existing Defence budget. There are no Barnett consequentials.

Armed Forces: Military Decorations

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on awarding medals to members of the armed forces who served in Aden during the period June 1960 to July 1964. [321049]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals (known as the HD Committee), which considers cases for new medals and makes recommendations to the Queen, has repeatedly made it clear that it does not revisit cases more than five years after the completion of a military campaign.

There is no direct ministerial involvement with the Committee.

Army: Lost Property

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many rounds of ammunition have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last 12 months. [319719]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Copthorne Barracks

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the operating costs for Copthorne Barracks were in each financial year since 2001; [320764]

(2) what estimate he has made of the operating costs for Copthorne Barracks in each of the next three years. [320765]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Due to changes in the accounting systems, costs prior to 2003 are not held. Operating costs for Copthorne Barracks since 2003 are shown in the following table.

	£ million
2003-04	5.024
2004-05	3.959
2005-06	5.327
2006-07	3.545
2007-08	4.030

	£ million
2008-09	3.984
2009-10	3.360

Estimated costs for the next three years are as follows:

	£ million
2010-11	3.558
2011-12	3.567
2012-13	3.654

The figures have been taken from the operating costs statement and cover property management, utilities and other general infrastructure costs.

Variations are due to changes in the budgetary structure, activity levels for units in Copthorne Barracks and property management projects.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the *(a)* medium-term and *(b)* long-term future of Copthorne Barracks; and if he will make a statement. [320766]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There are currently no plans to change the use of Copthorne Barracks.

The structure and organisation of the Army and its supporting infrastructure are kept under constant review.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff of each grade in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies spent on first class travel in the last 12 months. [320393]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1224W, to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) on departmental rail travel.

The breakdown of these figures between Ministers and staff by grade/rank is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Future Large Aircraft

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 773W, on Future Large Aircraft, how much of the £848 million on the A400M programme has been spent under each cost category; and what sums are recoverable should the programme be cancelled. [321183]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my noble Friend the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Ministry of Defence, Lord Drayson, to the noble Lord, Lord Gilbert of Dudley, in another place on 25 January 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA285. The Government do not expect the project to be cancelled, and we reached agreement in principle on the terms of a renegotiation on 5 March.

Gurkhas

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the cost of the public purse has been of the Gurkha Settlement Office in Kathmandu since its inception; [321262]

(2) how many applications for settlement initially refused by the Gurkha Settlement Office have been accepted following re-submission through the Gurkha Army Ex-Servicemen's Organisation. [321263]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Gurkha Settlement Office was opened in October 2009, using existing accommodation and facilities within the British Gurkhas Kathmandu base. It is staffed by four locally employed civilians. The cost of setting up and staffing the office to date is £20,000.

The Gurkha Settlement Office was not set up to process visa application forms. It offers ex-Gurkhas and their dependants, free of charge, information about life in the UK, so that they can reach an informed decision about whether they want to apply for settlement in this country. If they decide that they do wish to apply, then the Gurkha Settlement Office provides support by helping with the completion of visa application forms and through liaison with the Gurkha Records Office to supply some of the documentation needed to support a visa application. The Gurkha Settlement Office has received nearly 4,000 visits and around 2,000 ex-Gurkhas and/or their dependants have registered on the settlement office database for help with their visa application. Visa applications are processed by the UK Border Agency, in their regional centre in New Delhi. Under the new immigration rules over 6,600 visa applications have been received from ex-Gurkhas and their dependants and over 3,650 visas have been authorised or issued. It is not known how many of these applicants may have sought help from the Gurkha Army Ex-Servicemen's Organisation (GAESO) when preparing their application forms.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what long-range maritime cover will be in place following the withdrawal of the Nimrod Mk2s in April 2010 prior to the introduction of the Nimrod Mk4s in 2012. [320925]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer the Minister for the Armed Forces, my hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell), gave on 1 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 47W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received from representatives of *(a)* the Scottish Fishermen's Federation and *(b)* Oil and Gas UK on the removal from service of the Nimrod MR2. [321368]

Bill Rammell: Ministers have received no representations from these bodies on the removal from service of the Nimrod MR2.

Royal Irish Regiment

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many applications for an extension to service beyond the age of 55 with the Home Service Battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment were *(a)* approved and *(b)* rejected in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007. [321173]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 8 March 2010]*: The number of approved applications to extend service beyond the age of 55 with the Home Service Battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment in each of the specified years was as follows:

	Number of approved applications
2005	5
2006	15
2007	[1]—

[1] Denotes fewer than five but more than zero

Note:

All figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

Since the disbandment of the Home Service Battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, the number of rejected applications is no longer held.

World War II: Memorials

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if his Department will take steps to commemorate those who died on RMS Lancastria, on the 70th anniversary of the sinking of the ship on 17 June 1940. [320863]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Each year the whole country pauses in reflection and remembrance of the sacrifice and loss of life for all those who have died as a result of conflict. This includes all of those service personnel and civilians who perished on RMS Lancastria on 17 June 1940.

The Ministry of Defence has no current plans to commemorate the 70th anniversary. However, during the Merchant Navy Day Commemorative Service due to coincide with the anniversary on 17 June 2010 in Trinity Gardens, Tower Hill, London, particular attention will be given to marking the loss of the many lives on board RMS Lancastria.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Bletchley Park Museum

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding was allocated to the Bletchley Park Museum in each of the last 10 years. [318075]

Margaret Hodge: The Bletchley Park Trust received a development grant of £460,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2009, primarily to support the development and improvement of the Bletchley Park Museum.

Additionally the Bletchley site has benefited from an English Heritage grant of £330,000 in 2008 towards repairs to the roof of the main mansion building.

Cricket: Finance

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will assess the effect on revenues of grass-roots cricket clubs of the inclusion of the Ashes in the list of group A and B sporting events to be covered on terrestrial television. [320950]

Mr. Bradshaw: Any decision about which sporting events should be listed will take account of the possible impact on the finance of sporting bodies, including grassroots community sports, and on affected broadcasters.

I will consider this matter fully in light of all the material and views that will be generated by the consultation process which ends on 19 March.

Culture: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding has been allocated to his Department's Rewired Culture event on 27 March 2010; and how much such funding had been spent on the latest date for which figures are available. [319029]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 1 March 2010]*: The Rewired Culture event and a publication on digitisation for the cultural sector have an indicative budget of £15,000.

Departmental Databases

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost of installing the Human Resources Information System (Oracle) in his Department has been to date. [320812][1]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since October 2008, the cost of installing the Oracle Human Resources Information System in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has been £544,563.26.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on external consultants in respect of the Human Resources Information System (Oracle) to date. [320813][2]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since October 2008, my Department has spent £294,849.19 on external consultants in respect of the Human Resources Information Systems (Oracle).

Departmental Location

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on the relocation of staff from posts in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years. [321433]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not spent any money on the relocation of staff from posts in either Essex or Castle Point in the last five years.

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[1] *[Official Report, 30 March 2010, Vol. 508, c. 9MC.]*

[2] *[Official Report, 30 March 2010, Vol. 508, c. 10MC.]*

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many full-time equivalent staff of each grade are employed by his Department to assist special advisers. [321132]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport employs one full-time equivalent at civil service grade executive officer to assist two special advisers.

Departmental Public Consultation

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on *(a)* written consultation, *(b)* consultation road shows and *(c)* focus groups in each of the last three years. [319762]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information for departmental spend on written consultations specifically is not held centrally. There have been no consultation road shows in the last three years. For the last three full financial years, the focus groups spend for the Department is in the table. All consultations are published on the Department's website:

www.culture.gov.uk

Financial year	*Departmental focus group spend (£)*
2006-07	24,400
2007-08	80,105
2008-09	30,623

Other research commissioned is likely to have included a focus group element but it is not possible to determine the costs of these elements.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many cases of financial irregularities have been recorded in his Department in each of the last five financial years; and if he will make a statement. [320896]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Treasury guidance, 'Managing Public Money' defines irregularities as spend outside legal powers, parliamentary consents, or Treasury delegations. On that basis, the Department has reported financial irregularities over the last five years as follows:

Financial year	*Number of cases*
2004-05	0
2005-06	0
2006-07	0
2007-08	1
2008-09	0

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff of each grade in (i) his Department and (ii) its agency spent on first class travel in the last 12 months. [320397]

Margaret Hodge: All travel by Ministers and staff is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code.

The Department's system does not analyse total travel expenditure by grade of staff or class of travel. To obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

The only information on first class travel which is available and which is for travel pre-booked through the Department's contracted travel agents only, is set out in the following table.

£

Financial year	*Ministers*	*Staff*
2009-10[1]	8,490	24,410
2008-09[2]	7,340	46,030

[1] To January 2010.
[2] Full year costs.

Foreign Companies: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has provided to organisations or companies registered abroad in each of the last five years. [318625]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 25 February 2010]*: The Department paid subscriptions to international bodies in each of the last five years as set out in the following table.

£

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]
European Audiovisual Observatory	162,351	177,951	146,721	212,678	239,101
United Nations:					
World Tourism Organisation	—	—	—	315,116	113,213
World Heritage Fund	128,443	107,964	125,035	129,159	140,654
World Anti-Doping Association	343,445	358,596	338,757	378,312	475,470
Council of Europe: Enlarged					
Partial Agreement on Sport	—	—	55,533	97,893	—
	634,239	644,511	666,046	1,133,158	968,438

[1] Forecast

Details of other spend with overseas trade suppliers can only be identified at disproportionate cost.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff his Department and its agencies have appointed who were later discovered to be illegal immigrants since 2005. [320441]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport and The Royal Parks Agency have found no illegal immigrants working for them since 2005.

National Skills Academy for Creative and Cultural Skills: Thurrock

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent progress has been made on establishing cross-cutting procedures to enable progress to be made on the *(a)* funding for and *(b)* construction of a site shared with the Royal Opera House campus, Thurrock of the Creative and Cultural Skills Academy. [320598]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 4 March 2010]:* The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has worked closely with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Communities and Local Government to progress the National Skills Academy for Creative and Cultural Skills (NSA) and the Royal Opera House Production Park.

In November 2009, the Learning and Skills Council committed £5 million to the NSA. Discussions have taken place with the Homes and Communities Agency on funding.

Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation handed over the Royal Opera House Production Workshops to the Royal Opera House on the 2 March 2010. The completion date for this project is November 2010 and it will house the creation of costumes and scenery.

Public Houses: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many public houses there were in *(a)* the London borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009. [321058]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has collated annual statistics from licensing authorities relating to alcohol, entertainment and late night refreshment since the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003. This does not identify the number of pubs, as there is no official or established definition of a pub which distinguishes it from other premises which sell alcohol.

Prior to the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003, data were collected by petty sessional division (magistrates court areas) on a triennial basis. As at 30 June 1998, there were 135 public houses in Bexley and 8,844 public houses in London. This definition of a public house includes hotels and premises (other than those licensed under part IV of the Licensing Act 1964) having a justices' on-licence.

Public Libraries: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many public libraries there were in *(a)* the London borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009. [321059]

Margaret Hodge: Public library statistics are published annually by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). Data for 2009 are not yet available. The total number of service points (including mobile libraries) in Bexley and Greater London open 10 or more hours per week at 31 March 1997 and 2008 are in the table.

	1997	*2008*
London borough of Bexley	15	13
Greater London	405	388

Swimming: Concessions

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 658, what discussions he has had with the Minister for the Olympics on the take up of free swimming initiatives by Bexley borough council; and on what date Bexley borough council commenced offering free swimming. [320737]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Secretary of State has had no specific discussions with the Minister for the Olympics on the take up of the free swimming initiative by Bexley borough council.

Bexley borough council commenced offering free swimming in April 2009.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what representations he has received from *(a)* members of the public and *(b)* local authorities on charging for swimming floats by leisure centres which participate in the Government's free swimming initiative; [320891]

(2) whether funding provided under his Department's free swimming initiative is intended to cover the use of *(a)* swimming floats and *(b)* other swimming aids. [320892]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has received no representations from members of the public or local authorities on charging for swimming floats by leisure centres which participate in the Government's free swimming initiative.

The Government provide revenue funding to local authorities who are responsible for the delivery of the Free Swimming Programme. The scheme enables people aged 60 and over and young people aged 16 and under to swim for free.

Theatre: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding was provided to each theatre participating in the free theatre tickets scheme; and how many tickets each theatre agreed to make available. [317187]

Margaret Hodge: Theatres wishing to participate in the "A Night Less Ordinary" scheme were invited to apply for one of four types of grants by Arts Council England.

According to the type of venue, the location and the number of tickets each venue expected to be able to give away, participants received either:-

a multi award of £300,000 for one large West End consortium;
a premium award of £50,000 for larger ticket allocations;
a standard award of £30,000 for regular ticket allocations;
a flexible award of £10,000 for smaller ticket allocations.

Arts Council England has supplied a full list of participating theatres by award category in the following table.

Name of venue	*Region*	*Band*
London Off West End Consortium (Almeida, Battersea Arts Centre, Bush Theatre, Donmar Warehouse, Greenwich Theatre, Hampstead Theatre, Lyric Hammersmith, Royal Court, Soho Theatre, Tricycle Theatre, Theatre Royal Stratford East, Young Vic)	London	Multi award
Barbican Centre	London	Premium
Rose Theatre, Kingston	London	Premium
National Theatre	London	Premium
The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury	South East	Premium
Chichester Festival Theatre	South East	Premium
HQ Theatres Ltd (Wycombe Swan, High Wycombe; Beck Theatre, Hayes; Southend Theatres; The Wyvern Theatre, Swindon; White Rock Theatre, Hastings)	National	Premium
The Works (Dance and Theatre Cornwall) (Carn to Cove, representing 62 village halls; The Acorn Arts Centre, Penzance; Sterts Theatre, Upton Cross; The Keay Theatre, St Austell; Helford Theatre, Truro)	South West	Premium
Theatre Royal, Plymouth	South West	Premium
Birmingham Hippodrome	West Midlands	Premium
Birmingham Rep	West Midlands	Premium
Malvern Theatres	West Midlands	Premium
Royal Shakespeare Company	West Midlands	Premium
West Yorkshire Playhouse	Yorkshire	Premium
York Royal Theatre	Yorkshire	Premium
Royal and Derngate, Northampton	East Midlands	Standard
Nottingham Playhouse	East Midlands	Standard
The Pleasance Theatre Islington	London	Standard
Hackney Empire Studio Theatre	London	Standard
Trafalgar Studios	London	Standard
Areola Theatre Production Company	London	Standard
Polka Theatre	London	Standard
The Churchill, Bromley	London	Standard
Sunderland Empire	North East	Standard
North East Newcastle Theatres (Theatre Royal, Northern Stage, Live Theatre)	North East	Standard
Contact	North West	Standard
West Cumbria Arts Partnership (Theatre by the Lake, Keswick; Rosehill Theatre, Whitehaven, Kirkgate Centre, Cockermouth; The Wave, Maryport; Arts Out West-West Cumbria rural touring scheme)	North West	Standard
Royal Exchange Theatre	North West	Standard
Blackpool Grand	North West	Standard
Dukes Playhouse	North West	Standard
Oldham Coliseum Theatre	North West	Standard
The Octagon Theatre, Bolton	North West	Standard
The Hawth Theatre	South East	Standard
Milton Keynes Theatre	South East	Standard
Nuffield Theatre	South East	Standard
Oxford Playhouse	South East	Standard
Exeter Northcott Theatre	South West	Standard
Lighthouse, Poole's Centre for the Arts	South West	Standard
Belgrade Theatre	West Midlands	Standard
New Vic Theatre	West Midlands	Standard
Regent Theatre, Stoke-On-Trent	West Midlands	Standard
Warwick Arts Centre	West Midlands	Standard
Hull Truck Theatre	Yorkshire	Standard
Sheffield Theatres Trust (Crucible Theatre, Lyceum Theatre, Studio Theatre)	Yorkshire	Standard
Watford Palace Theatre	East	Flexible
Mercury Theatre	East	Flexible
The Hat Factory, Luton	East	Flexible
The Junction	East	Flexible
South Holland Centre	East Midlands	Flexible
Derby Live (Assembly Rooms and Guildhall Theatre)	East Midlands	Flexible
Blue Elephant Theatre	London	Flexible
Half Moon	London	Flexible
Tara	London	Flexible
artsdepot	London	Flexible
Gate Theatre	London	Flexible
Millfield Arts Centre	London	Flexible
The Albany	London	Flexible
Harrow Arts Centre	London	Flexible
Orange Tree Theatre	London	Flexible
Roundhouse	London	Flexible
Rich Mix	London	Flexible
Darlington Civic Theatre/Darlington Arts Centre	North East	Flexible
The Customs House	North East	Flexible
Forum twenty eight	North West	Flexible
The Met Arts Centre	North West	Flexible
Liverpool Everyman Playhouse	North West	Flexible
Library Theatre Company	North West	Flexible
Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre	North West	Flexible
Highlights Rural Touring Scheme	North West/ North East	Flexible
Farnham Maltings	South East	Flexible
Hampshire Small Scale Venues (Ashcroft Arts Centre, Farnham; Forest Arts Centre, New Milton; Havant Arts Centre; West End Centre, Aldershot; Winchester Discovery Centre)	South East	Flexible
The Live Theatre Winchester Trust (Theatre Royal Winchester, New Theatre Royal, Portsmouth)	South East	Flexible
Assembly Hall Theatre	South East	Flexible
South Hill Park Arts Centre	South East	Flexible
PANeK Consortia (PANeK; Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury; Theatre Royal Margate; Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, South Hill Park Arts Centre)	South East	Flexible
Merlin Theatre	South West	Flexible
Arc Theatre Trowbridge	South West	Flexible
Culture Swindon (Swindon Arts Centre, Artsmad)	South West	Flexible
Air in G	South West	Flexible
Oakengates Theatre @ The Palace, Telford	West Midlands	Flexible
Breaking Boundaries (Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Arts Alive Touring Scheme)	West Midlands	Flexible
The Drum	West Midlands	Flexible
Playbox Theatre	West Midlands	Flexible
Courtyard Centre for the Arts	West Midlands	Flexible
Lawrence Batley Theatre/LBT	Yorkshire	Flexible
The Civic	Yorkshire	Flexible
Lamproom Theatre, Barnsley	Yorkshire	Flexible
Square Chapel Centre for the Arts	Yorkshire	Flexible
National Rural Touring Forum	Yorkshire	Flexible
The Plowright Theatre	Yorkshire	Flexible
The Carriage Works	Yorkshire	Flexible

The "A Night Less Ordinary" scheme plans to make available over 600,000 tickets over two years. Arts Council England cannot provide the number of tickets individual theatres have agreed to make available for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many young people have used theatre tickets provided under the A Night Less Ordinary scheme since the scheme was introduced. [320661]

Margaret Hodge: In the first nine months of the 'A Night Less Ordinary' Scheme 122,818 tickets were given away to young people under 26. There is no central monitoring of the scheme, but we are undertaking a comprehensive evaluation which will include assessment of how many young people took advantage of the scheme and the potential impact on long-term attendance.

Tourism

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what incentives his Department provides to encourage local authorities to support local tourism initiatives. [319829]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* Responsibility for tourism in the English regions was given to the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) in 2003. The RDAs have developed regional tourism strategies, taking into account the needs of, and opportunities for, localities and destinations within their regions.

The RDAs have invested substantially in tourism development and promotion investing some £60 million in 2008-09. Local authorities are also important partners in supporting the visitor economy. The Local Government Association is represented on the Ministers' Tourism Advisory Council and the DCMS engages regularly with local bodies such as the British Resorts and Destinations Association and Destination Performance UK.

Alongside the marketing campaigns conducted by VisitBritain and VisitEngland, a number of DCMS programmes encourage and enable local authorities to develop and promote their tourism offer. DCMS sponsors "Sea Change", which has allocated £38 million to 32 seaside resorts, to support projects for cultural regeneration and the visitor economy. The "Renaissance in the Regions" programme is a ground-breaking initiative to transform England's regional museums. Renaissance has seen an investment of £242.8 million from 2002-09 and it is anticipated that nearly £300 million will have been invested by March 2011. We have seen recently, in the long queues at Bristol for the Banksy temporary exhibition and at Birmingham for the display of the Staffordshire Hoard of Anglo Saxon Gold, how these revitalized museums can encourage tourism.

Most recently, following on from the success of Liverpool European Capital of Culture, the DCMS launched the "UK City of Culture" competition, challenging bidding cities to develop a substantial programme of cultural activity which leads to a demonstrable step-change in their area, and a lasting legacy. Fourteen cities submitted initial bids, with Birmingham, Derry/Londonderry, Norwich and Sheffield succeeding in being shortlisted. The winning city will be announced in the summer.

In addition, whilst funding decisions are for local authorities themselves, to make, DCMS supports the Charter for Placemaking and Destination Management, developed through the "Partners for England" initiative, which provides guidance to local authorities on promoting, developing and measuring tourism, and on working with the industry and public sector partners. Local authority support and engagement will also be addressed in the England tourism strategy, currently being developed by VisitEngland.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has made an investigation into the reasons for the closure of tourist and visitor centres in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [320975]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has discussed the issue of Tourist Information Centre (TICs) closures with VisitEngland, and the Regional Development Agencies.

VisitEngland are undertaking some work to establish how many TICs are closing and what local authorities are doing to provide appropriate information to tourists in their area.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Solicitor-General how many and what proportion of staff of the Law Officers' Departments are disabled; and what the average salary in the Law Officers' Departments is of *(a)* full-time disabled staff, *(b)* full-time non-disabled staff, *(c)* part-time disabled staff and *(d)* part-time non-disabled staff. [317901]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments routinely provide information on the numbers of disabled staff and average salaries to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) who periodically publish these data on behalf of the whole civil service. The latest available figures were published on 20 January 2010. Specific information relating to the Law Officers' Departments is outlined in the following tables.

Employment by Department and disability status[1]

Attorney-General's Departments	*Disabled*	*Non-disabled*	*Not declared or non-response*	*Total*	*All employees with known disability status*	*Disabled employees as percentage of known disability status*
Crown Prosecution Services	330	6,780	1,580	8,690	7,110	4.7
Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate	—	30	10	50	30	—
Attorney-General's Office	—	30	20	40	30	—

Employment by Department and disability status[1]

Attorney-General's Departments	*Disabled*	*Non-disabled*	*Not declared or non-response*	*Total*	*All employees with known disability status*	*Disabled employees as percentage of known disability status*
Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office[2]	10	180	160	350	200	6.6
Serious Fraud Office	20	240	60	320	260	6.6
Treasury Solicitor	40	700	80	830	750	5.9
National Fraud Authority[3]	—	20	20	50	20	—

[1] For each column the numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, and numbers less than five are not shown to protect staff confidentiality. The total column will therefore not necessarily equal the sum of the preceding three columns.

[2] HMRCPO have since merged with CPS in January 2010.

[3] Data for NFA have not been collated or published by ONS. The data provided are based on the latest available data.

Median earnings by Department and disability status[1]

Attorney-General's Departments	*Full-time non-disabled*	*Full-time disabled*	*Part-time non-disabled*	*Part-time disabled*
CPS	27,120	29,520	25,080	25,080
HMCPSI	47,540	—	—	—
AGO	24,440	—	—	—
HMRCPO[2]	28,250	31,490	28,120	—
SFO	29,200	26,220	26,970	—
TSol	46,160	26,480	58,270	—
NFA[3]	48,840	—	—	—

[1] Salaries in this table represent the full-time equivalent salaries of employees rounded to the nearest 10. Earnings are not shown where there are less than five members to protect staff confidentiality.

[2] HMRCPO have since merged with CPS in January 2010.

[3] Data for NFA have not been collated or published by ONS. The data provided are based on the latest available data.

Trade Unions

Mr. Syms: To ask the Solicitor-General how many days staff of the Law Officers' Departments spent on trade union activity in the latest year for which figures are available; and what recent estimate she has made of the annual cost to the public purse of such activity. [320668]

The Solicitor-General: No days were spent by staff members of the Attorney-General's Office or the National Fraud Authority on trade union activity in 2008-09.

HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate has a Whitley council which meets quarterly and is attended by FDA and Public and Commercial Services Union representatives. Where it is necessary for union representatives to devote time to specific activities on personal cases, this is done by agreement with their line manager. No formal record is maintained.

The Serious Fraud Office does not record details on the number of days spent by staff engaged on trade union activities.

Information on the Treasury Solicitors Department (TSol) and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is contained in the following table.

Department	*Estimate of the number of days spent on union activities 2008-09*	*Estimated cost*[1] *(£)*
TSol	354	37,212
CPS[2]	4,068	535,915

[1] These are estimates based on the average pay grade of staff involved in trade union activity.

[2] The CPS data includes figures for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office which merged with CPS in January 2010. 126 days were spent on trade union activities by HMRCPO officials at an estimated cost of £18,791.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

World Water Day

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to mark World Water Day. [320957]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) will mark this important occasion by hosting an event shortly before World Water Day. During the event we will hear what action our stakeholders are taking to address the millennium development goals for water and sanitation, and how best DFID can continue to support their efforts. DFID will also seek to raise awareness of the important of access to water and sanitation for poverty reduction through our website, newsletters and the release of a new publication, reporting on the work we have done to help poor people get access to water and sanitation.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what major refurbishments have been carried out on the House of Commons Estate in the last five years; and what the cost was of each such refurbishment. [320557]

Nick Harvey: Major refurbishments carried out in the last five years, taken to mean construction projects to improve existing facilities on the Commons part of the parliamentary estate where expenditure has been more than £1 million during the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2009, have been shown in the following table.

Refurbishment	*Cost in five-year period (£)*
Press Gallery refurbishment of offices and catering	8,178,902
7 Millbank cooling	2,730,004
Install data wiring and refurbish—Phase 10B Palace of Westminster	2,634,328
Install data wiring and refurbish—Phase 10A Palace of Westminster	2,025,505
Relocate mechanical and electrical services and underpin south stairs	1,593,201
Boiler, chiller and summer boiler 2002-05	1,582,190
Install air conditioning and restore committee rooms 11, 12, 13	1,552,823
Bellamy's Cafeteria modernisation	1,410,510
Mechanical and electrical modernisation—Palace of Westminster	1,331,382

Nurseries

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what advice the House of Commons Commission has sought from the Finance and Services Committee on the cost of replacing Bellamy's Bar, the Astor Suite and Bellamy's Clubroom with a day nursery. [321400]

Nick Harvey: The Commission considered it important to have the planned nursery facility operating early in the new Parliament, before new Members had made other child care arrangements. This is a challenging timescale, given the need for listed building consent and consent for change of use, the time required to make the premises ready and the requirement to pass the Ofsted inspection and be registered with Ofsted. In view of the time constraints, the Commission decided it was not feasible to seek advice from the Finance and Services Committee.

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the House of Commons Commission will place in the Library a copy of the full business case for the replacement of Bellamy's Bar, the Astor Suite and Bellamy's Clubroom by a day nursery. [321401]

Nick Harvey: The full business case is being prepared for submission to the Clerk of the House. Such documents necessarily contain commercially confidential information, the disclosure of which would damage the commercial interests of the House.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Health Education

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on marketing and advertising to encourage the responsible consumption of alcohol in each of the last five years. [321157]

Phil Hope: The alcohol harm reduction campaign began in 2006-07 and was run in conjunction with the Home Office until the end of financial year 2008-09. The table shows the Department's advertising expenditure in these years and does not include spending undertaken by the Home Office.

The figure for the current financial year (2009-10) is provisional until records are fully audited at the end of the financial year.

Financial year	*Expenditure (£)*
2005-06	0
2006-07	559,883
2007-08	612,792
2008-09	4,771,921
2009-10	3,584,733

The figures do not include recruitment or classified advertising costs. Advertising spend is defined as covering only media spend (inclusive of agency commissions but excluding production costs, Central Office of Information commission and VAT). All figures exclude advertising rebates and audit adjustments and therefore may differ from Central Office of Information official turnover figures.

The advertising campaign is supported by activity in the national health service, for example, the distribution of information materials about the health harms associated with alcohol consumption and practical advice for people considering drinking less. However, figures on expenditure within the NHS are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Aortic Aneurysm: Screening

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the merits of bringing forward the timetable for full implementation of the NHS abdominal aortic screening programme, with particular reference to *(a)* feasibility, *(b)* cost and *(c)* the likely effects on mortality rates of the early implementation of that programme. [320805]

Ann Keen: Immediate implementation was considered as an option and a full analysis of the cost and mortality rates of this approach was made and compared to the analysis of phased implementation. However in common with all other national screening programmes, this programme needs to have a managed national roll-out to realise the benefits of the combination of screening to safe and effective standards. Early implementation would not have allowed sufficient time to reorganise treatment services in order to minimise mortality and morbidity in patients having planned surgery.

Autism: Drugs

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department has issued to clinicians on the use of chlorpromazine hydrochloride for the treatment of patients diagnosed with autism; [321393]

(2) what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* reviewed on the potential risks to health and other side effects of chlorpromazine hydrochloride prescribed for the treatment of people diagnosed with autism in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [321394]

(3) how many fatalities of people diagnosed with autism associated with the use of chlorpromazine hydrochloride and other anti-psychotic medication there were in the last 10 years; [321395]

(4) what guidelines his Department has issued on medication prescribed for the treatment of people diagnosed with autism; and what guidelines are in force on the use of anti-psychotic medication for people with autistic spectrum disorders. [321396]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since the marketing of chlorpromazine, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) in conjunction with its independent scientific advisory committee, the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) and its predecessors, has kept the safety of chlorpromazine and other anti-psychotics under close review. Prescribing guidance has been updated to reflect new safety data and the MHRA has also informed health care professionals and patients of the updated prescribing guidance through the regular drug safety bulletin, "Drug Safety Update", and information posted on the MHRA website.

Reports of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are collected by the MHRA and CHM through the Yellow Card Scheme. During the time period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2009, the MHRA has received a total of 18 spontaneous suspected fatal ADR reports associated with chlorpromazine in the United Kingdom. None of these cases describe an indication for use of autism or have provided a medical history of the patient having autism. During this 10 year period a total of 39 fatal reports for all anti-psychotics listed the indication as 'learning disorder/disability' or 'behavioural disorder' or had a medical history of autism, asperger's disorder, learning disability or behavioural disorder.

The use of medication such as anti-psychotic drugs for behaviour problems is an issue that will most likely be addressed in the clinical guidelines for autistic spectrum disorders in adults and children currently being developed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). NICE has not yet indicated when it expects this guidance to be issued to be available to the national health service.

Autism: Health Services

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that the national autism strategy provides guidance on reasonable adjustments that public service providers can make to support adults with autism. [320662]

Phil Hope: The Government's strategy for adults with autism in England, 'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives', was published on 3 March 2010 and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_113369

Copies have been placed in the Library.

The strategy reiterates the requirement under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 for services to make reasonable adjustments for disabled adults—this includes adults with autism. Within the strategy we have committed to delivering guidance to indicate the kinds of adjustments that might be usefully made, from physical adjustments to premises to improving the ways those delivering services communicate with adults with autism.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has also underlined its commitment to making adjustments for adults with autism using Jobcentre Plus services. As well as making any required reasonable adjustments—such as making use of the most suitable environment or premises for conducting work focused interviews—DWP will also ensure Jobcentre Plus advisers are aware of both the need to make suitable adjustments for adults with autism and of the kinds of adjustments that may be beneficial.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent staff of each grade are employed by his Department to assist special advisers. [321137]

Phil Hope: Two full-time executive officers assist the special advisers.

Departmental Paper

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* brands of (i) paper and (ii) paper products his Department uses; and what his Department's policy is on the procurement of those materials. [320029]

Phil Hope: Paper purchased by the Department is purchased through the Department's office supplies contract with Office Depot or through the Central Office of Information (COI) for print and published material. The majority of general printing and copying paper used by the Department is Evolve Everyday or Niceday, 80 gsm, in A3/4/5 sizes. Other paper purchased is from Office Depot or Niceday Environmental (Forest Stewardship Council-certified) range.

All of the Department's print and publishing is through COI and paper is purchased from companies on the COI EU tendered Framework. Various papers are purchased with 50-100 per cent. recycled content. On rare occasions when viable recycled products are not available other FSC or programme for the endorsement of forest certification schemes—approved virgin fibre products may be purchased.

Paper products purchased by the Department's cleaning contractor, Resource FM, and consist of toilet paper and paper towels. All toilet paper is Scott Performance 4476, which has a 100 per cent. recycled content. All paper towels purchased by the Department are Wypall Centre Feed, which has 100 per cent. recycled content.

Swantex paper napkins are provided by the Department's catering contractor, Quadrant Catering Ltd. These are either 100 per cent. recycled content or 10-40 per cent. part recycled and dyed using food dyes.

The Department is committed to only purchasing paper and paper products that conform to the Government's "Buy Sustainable—Quick Wins" minimum environmental specifications.

General Practitioners: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people registered with general practitioners in the London borough of Bexley in each year since 1997. [321061]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information is not available in the format requested. Following is the number of general practitioner (GP)-registered patients in Bexley Care Trust.

Bexley Care Trust	*Number*
2002	210,757
2003	214,146
2004	221,325
2005	222,192
2006	223,474
2007	222,019
2008	223,043

Notes

1. It is not possible to provide comparable work force data for this organisation prior to the formation of the primary care trust in 2002.

2. Figures provided show numbers of patients registered with a GP as at 30 September each year. Data on patient transactions or newly registered patients are not available on the Annual GP Census.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

General Practitioners: Fees and Charges

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the levels of charges made by some general practitioners to their patients for a letter in support of applications for disability living allowance and attendance allowance; if he will bring forward proposals to reimburse people who pay such charges; and if he will make a statement. [321217]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None.

Under the terms of their contract with their primary care trust, general practitioners (GPs) are required to issue certain medical certificates, free of charge, which are reasonably required in support of claims for benefits and allowances—such as disability living allowance and attendance allowance. Where patients choose to provide medical information in support of their claim, that is not a mandatory part of the application, the GP may choose to charge a fee.

If further medical evidence is required by the Department of Work and Pensions, they will contact the patient's GP and pay any fees.

Health Services: Guernsey

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of *(a)* emergency and *(b)* non-emergency treatment of people from Guernsey in each of the last five years. [321261]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 8 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 58-60W.

Home Care Services: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 296W, on social services: finance, which of his Department's communication and advertising budgets will be affected by the changes to planned expenditure to cover funding of the provisions of the Personal Care at Home Bill; and how much will be taken from each budget. [318888]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Boston and Skegness (Mark Simmonds) on 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 296W.

Hospitals: Consultants

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to NHS hospitals on daily hours of consultant cover in *(a)* maternity units, *(b)* paediatric assessment units and *(c)* accident and emergency departments. [321397]

Ann Keen: The medical Royal Colleges advise on clinical standards. It is for local national health service organisations to determine the medical skill mix they require to provide safe and high quality clinical care.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of infection per *(a)* 1,000 hospital bed days and *(b)* 1,000 patients admitted to hospital there were in 2005. [320828]

Ann Keen: Information on all infections is not collected centrally. However, data on the main infections covered by mandatory surveillance, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) blood stream infections and *Clostridium difficile* infections, are given in the following table.

	MRSA[1]	*Clostridium difficile (65 years or older)*[2]
Number of cases reported	7,096	51,829
Cases of infection per 1,000 bed days	0.18	2.15
Cases of infection per 1,000 admissions	0.86	21.22

[1] Data on MRSA cases, bed days (KH03) and admissions are for the 2005-06 financial year.

[2] Based on 2005 calendar year. Prior to April 2007, *C. difficile* data were only collected for those aged 65 and over. Bed days are from Hospital Episode Statistics. The number of *C. difficile* cases and rates were based on data from 171 of 173 trusts, as complete data are not available for two trusts.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department collects on numbers of *(a)* hospital-acquired infections and *(b)* patients entering hospitals with infections. [320829]

Ann Keen: The mandatory surveillance system collects numbers of reports for the following pathogens that are usually considered healthcare associated infections and surgical procedures:

methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bacteraemias;

Clostridium difficile infections (CDI);

glycopeptide-resistant enterococci (GRE) bacteraemias; and

selected orthopaedic surgical site infections (SSIs).

It is not easy to ascertain where an infection has been acquired and these datasets include both infections acquired in hospital and in other settings. However, the MRSA and CDI system now allows for indirect identification of cases that may have been acquired within the reporting trust by calculating the elapsed time between a patient's admission date and specimen date.

While MRSA bacteraemias and CDI present on admission can be identified, a proportion of these are likely to be associated with a previous hospital admission.

Maternity Services

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many newborn babies experienced methadone withdrawal in the latest period for which figures are available; and what treatments are used in the NHS for the symptoms of withdrawal. [321304]

Gillian Merron: Data on the number of babies born with neonatal withdrawal symptoms from maternal use of illicit or therapeutic drugs are collected, but are not broken down by type of drug.

In 2008-09, 1,233 babies were born with neonatal withdrawal symptoms from maternal use of illicit or therapeutic drugs.[1]

The Department and the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse have issued guidance to the national health service to ensure that mothers in this situation are supported and monitored, and the health needs of the baby assessed to minimise any health risks.

Additionally, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is in the process of producing clinical guidelines for pregnant women with complex social factors, including substance misuse problems.

Source:

[1] Hospital Episode Statistics, The Information Centre for health and social care

Medical Treatments Abroad

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* E112 authorisations and *(b)* Article 49 authorisations for each type of treatment there have been in each year since 1998; [319931]

(2) how many patients have been referred abroad for each treatment in respect of which there were no facilities in the UK in each year since 1998. [319934]

Gillian Merron: A patient may be issued an E112 form and referred to another member state of the European Economic Area or Switzerland for treatment, if they would experience undue delay for that same treatment under their state health care system.

Alternatively, a patient may choose to access health care services in another member state under article 49 (now article 56 of the Lisbon treaty). The responsibility for authorising reimbursement of health costs under article 49 is devolved to primary care trusts, and there is no central collection of the data.

The following table shows the number of E112s, and the number of those that relate to maternity care, issued by the United Kingdom in the years 1998-2009. Member states have agreed that it is appropriate to issue the form E112 on a discretionary basis to expectant mothers who wish to give birth in another member state, regardless of capacity. Data relating to each specific treatment are held centrally, however to process the data and present them by treatment type would incur disproportionate cost.

Calendar year	*E112s issued*	*Number of E112s relating to maternity care*
1998	891	304
1999	994	291
2000	1,289	336
2001	1,266	369
2002	1,393	368
2003	1,287	359
2004	503	141
2005	360	128
2006	412	273
2007	534	402
2008	1,471	1,027
2009	1,379	1,228

Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence received by his Department from the Healthcare Commission on the Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [320782]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Midwives: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent midwives were working in the NHS organisation in each year since 1997; and how many were working in each NHS organisation in each of the last three years. [320920]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the number of full-time equivalent midwives employed within the national health service in each year since 1997 and a separate table outlining the number of midwives working in each NHS organisation in each of the last three years has been placed in the Library.

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified midwifery staff in England as at 30 September each specified year

Registered midwives	*Full-time equivalent*
1997	18,053
1998	18,168
1999	17,876
2000	17,662
2001	18,048
2002	18,119
2003	18,444
2004	18,854
2005	18,949
2006	18,862
2007	19,298
2008	19,639

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

Myelodysplastic Syndromes

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patient deaths have been caused by myelodysplastic syndromes in each year for which figures are available. [321379]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many patient deaths have be caused by myelodysplastic syndromes in each year for which figures are available. (321379)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where the underlying cause was myelodysplastic syndromes in England and Wales, for the years 2001 to 2008 (the latest year available).

It is not possible from the information given at death registration to state whether the deceased was a patient at the time of death.

Individual causes of death are coded by ONS using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Myelodyplastic syndromes are given a specific ICD-10 code (D4[illegible], however equivalent information is not readily available for years before 2001, when an earlier version of the International Classification of Diseases was in use.

Table 1. Number of deaths where the underlying cause was myelodysplastic syndromes, England and Wales, 2001-08[1, 2, 3]

	Deaths (persons)
2001	995
2002	1,010
2003	1,010
2004	937
2005	917
2006	916
2007	963
2008	963

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code D46 'Myelodysplastic syndromes'.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individual funding requests for the drug azacitidine were received by primary care trusts in the last 12 months; and how many were *(a)* accepted and *(b)* rejected. [321380]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not collected centrally.

NHS Foundation Trusts

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account his Department takes of mortality rates at NHS trusts when deciding whether trusts' applications for foundation status can proceed to Monitor. [320780]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A significant part of the Department's assessment of national health service foundation trust applications is the consideration of the quality of care provided at each organisation. This review of quality includes an explicit consideration of hospital standardised mortality rates, alongside other care quality indicators such as patient surveys and safety indicators.

Since April 2009 the Department's assessment has also included the consideration of each application by the NHS Medical Director. His satisfaction with an organisation is required prior to Ministers considering whether to support a foundation trust application. The NHS Medical Director considers a range of quality related intelligence, including hospital standardised mortality rates, in forming his view on each trust.

NHS: Assets

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the total cost of backlog maintenance in respect of *(a)* high, *(b)* significant, *(c)* moderate and *(d)* low risk in (i) England and (ii) each NHS organisation according to data from Estates Return Information Collection returns in each financial year from 1997-98 to 2008-09. [318225]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested.

Levels of backlog maintenance categorised by risk were not collected prior to 2004-05. The information relating to each national health service organisation from 2004-05 onwards has been placed in the Library.

Total cost of backlog maintenance cost for England, categorised by risk, is in the table.

£ million

	Backlog maintenance				
Risk level	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
High risk	358.2	329.9	307.6	309.7	267.9
Significant risk	778.2	982.2	943.4	1,119.8	1,175.7
Moderate risk	902.1	1,219.4	1,231.5	1,394.6	1,452.8
Low risk	1,103.2	1,152.1	1,257.4	1,219.5	1,188.3
Total	3,141.7	3,683.6	3,739.9	4,043.6	4,084.7

The Department collects data on backlog maintenance annually from NHS trusts through its estates return information collection. These data have not been amended centrally and their accuracy is the responsibility of the contributing NHS organisations.

NHS organisations are locally responsible for the provision and maintenance of their facilities. This includes planning and investment to reduce backlog maintenance.

The Government have introduced 100 new hospital schemes which have increased capacity and provided the opportunity to reduce backlog maintenance.

NHS: Procurement

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 753W, on the NHS, when he expects the PCT Procurement Guide to be published. [320247]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The revised "PCT Procurement Guide" is due to be published before the end of March.

NHS: Public Relations

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments NHS North West has made to *(a)* Communiqué and *(b)* Burston Marsteller; for what services; and on what dates. [320720]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Department does not collect information on payments made by national health service bodies to their suppliers. This information may be obtained direct from the North West Strategic Health Authority.

Obesity: Children

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of children in *(a)* Hampshire Primary Care Trust, *(b)* Southampton Primary Care Trust and *(c)* nationally were recognised as clinically obese in each age group in each of the last five years. [320819]

Gillian Merron: The information is not available in the format requested. Data are not held nationally on children who have been diagnosed as clinically obese.

Children trend table 4 in the 'Health Survey for England—2008 trend tables' contains the percentage of children aged two to 10 and 11 to 15 in England who are obese in each year between 2004-08. This information has already been placed in the Library. Information is not available by primary care trust (PCT).

Further information on the proportion of children who are obese in England is collected through the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). Table A in the NCMP main report shows the prevalence of obese children aged four to five years and 10 to 11 years in Hampshire PCT and Southampton PCT between 2006-07 and 2008-09. This information has already been placed in the Library.

Obesity: Surgery

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in each age group in *(a)* Hampshire Primary Care Trust, *(b)* Southampton Primary Care Trust and *(c)* nationally have received gastric surgery of each type for the treatment of obesity in each of the last 10 years. [320818]

Gillian Merron: This information has been placed in the Library.

Primary Care Trusts: Contracts

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what powers a primary care trust has to influence the result of the sale of the remaining part of a contract with a private provider of out-of-hours care to a different provider; and what account primary care trusts take of local support for private providers in exercising such powers. [321404]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A primary care trust (PCT) should be able to influence the sale of the remainder of a contract to the extent that was set out in the original contract between the PCT and the original out of hours provider.

In exerting any influence a PCT should ensure that it considers the implications for continuity and quality of care as well as value for money.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many cases of sexually transmitted infections were diagnosed in *(a)* under 12 year-olds, *(b)* 13 to 15 year-olds, *(c)* 16 and 17 year-olds and *(d)* people aged 18 years old or more in each region in each year since 1997; [320783]

(2) how many cases of *(a)* herpes, *(b)* Chlamydia, *(c)* HIV, *(d)* syphilis and *(e)* gonorrhoea were diagnosed in people of each age group in each region in each year since 1997. [320784]

Gillian Merron: Information on the number of diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections is not collected in the form requested.

Information on the number of diagnoses for herpes, Chlamydia, HIV, syphilis and gonorrhoea for people under 16, between 16-19 and 20 and over has been placed in the Library.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females were diagnosed with (i) syphilis, (ii) gonorrhoea, (iii) Chlamydia (uncomplicated), (iv) herpes (first incidence), (v) genital warts (first incidence), (vi) HIV/AIDS, (vii) trichomonas vaginalis and (viii) non-specific urethritis in (A) the Mid-Essex Hospital Trust area and (B) Essex in each of the last three years. [321301]

Gillian Merron: Data are only available on the number of diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics by strategic health authority (SHA). Table 1 gives the number of diagnoses for syphilis, gonorrhoea, Chlamydia (uncomplicated), herpes (first incidence), HIV, trichomoniasis, non-specific urethritis in the East of England SHA between 2006 and 2008, the latest date for which figures are available.

Table 2 gives data for the number of new HIV diagnoses in Essex County and Mid Essex Primary Care Trust (PCT) between 2006 and 2008 the latest date for which figures are available.

In addition to STIs diagnosed in GUM clinics, the National Chlamydia Screening programme (NCSP) provides Chlamydia screening to asymptomatic people under the age of 25 in England. The NCSP was launched in 2003 when a phased implementation programme started. Table 3 includes the number of diagnoses of Chlamydia in patients between the ages of 15-24 years in Mid Essex, North East Essex and West Essex PCTs between 2006 to 2009, the latest date for which figures are available.

Table 1: Number of new HIV diagnoses from all services and sexually transmitted infection (STI) diagnoses in genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics and in the National Chlamydia Screening programme (NCSP) in East of England, by sex, 2006-09 (calendar year)

Service	*STI*	*Year*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Diagnostic Services	HIV	2006	254	293	547
Diagnostic Services	HIV	2007	275	244	519
Diagnostic Services	HIV	2008	239	232	471
Diagnostic Services	HIV	2009	n/a	n/a	n/a
GUM clinics	Syphilis (primary and secondary)	2006	72	9	81

Table 1: Number of new HIV diagnoses from all services and sexually transmitted infection (STI) diagnoses in genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics and in the National Chlamydia Screening programme (NCSP) in East of England, by sex: 2006-09 (calendar year)

Service	*STI*	*Year*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
GUM clinics	Syphilis (primary and secondary)	2007	50	10	60
GUM clinics	Syphilis (primary and secondary)	2008	55	16	71
GUM clinics	Syphilis (primary and secondary)	2009	n/a	n/a	n/a
GUM clinics	Gonorrhoea (uncomplicated)	2006	560	279	840
GUM clinics	Gonorrhoea (uncomplicated)	2007	539	260	799
GUM clinics	Gonorrhoea (uncomplicated)	2008	519	306	825
GUM clinics	Gonorrhoea (uncomplicated)	2009	n/a	n/a	n/a
GUM clinics	Genital herpes (first incidence)	2006	641	1,093	1,734
GUM clinics	Genital herpes (first incidence)	2007	608	1,275	1,883
GUM clinics	Genital herpes (first incidence)	2008	705	1,370	2,075
GUM clinics	Genital herpes (first incidence)	2009	n/a	n/a	n/a
GUM clinics	Genital warts	2006	3,483	3,209	6,692
GUM clinics	Genital warts[1]	2007	3,690	3,457	7,147
GUM clinics	Genital warts	2008	3,825	3,308	7,133
GUM clinics	Genital warts	2009	n/a	n/a	n/a
GUM clinics	Trichomoniasis	2006	16	290	306
GUM clinics	Trichomoniasis	2007	13	286	299
GUM clinics	Trichomoniasis	2008	14	308	322
GUM clinics	Trichomoniasis	2009	n/a	n/a	n/a
GUM clinics	Non-specific urethritis	2006	7,438	948	8,386
GUM clinics	Non-specific urethritis	2007	7,651	776	8,427
GUM clinics	Non-specific urethritis	2008	7,530	625	8,155
GUM clinics	Non-specific urethritis	2009	n/a	n/a	n/a
GUM clinics	Chlamydia (uncomplicated)	2006	3,745	4,557	8,302
GUM clinics	Chlamydia (uncomplicated)	2007	4,519	5,215	9,734
GUM clinics	Chlamydia (uncomplicated)	2008	4,787	5,291	10,078
GUM clinics	Chlamydia (uncomplicated)	2009	n/a	n/a	n/a
NCSP	Chlamydia	2006	267	1,132	1,399
NCSP	Chlamydia	2007	486	1,238	1,724
NCSP	Chlamydia	2008[2]	1,171	3,637	4,815
NCSP	Chlamydia	2009	2,189	5,574	7,766

[1] Total includes those with unknown/unspecified sex. Therefore the sum of male and female diagnoses might not equal the total number of diagnoses.

[2] NCSP data for 2008 include non NCSP non GUM information reported for the period 1 April 2008 - 31 December 2008.

Notes:

New HIV Diagnoses data:

1. Numbers will rise as further reports are received.
2. Diagnoses are from reports received to end December 2009.
3. Patients may live with HIV for many years before they are diagnosed. Therefore new diagnosis data do not necessarily reflect recently acquired infections.
4. Areas when presented are area of diagnosis and not of residence, there is evidence that a large proportion of individuals are diagnosed outside their PCT of residence.
5. Data are unavailable for 2009.

Source:

Health Protection Agency, New HIV diagnoses in the United Kingdom. Date of data: 31 December 2009

GUM data:

1. Data are only provided at the SHA level.
2. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as General Practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
3. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed.
4. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
5. Data are unavailable for 2009.

Source:

Health Protection Agency, KC60 returns. Date of data: July 2009

NCSP data:

1. NCSP data consist of returns from the NCSP core dataset and non NCSP non GUM laboratory returns.
2. The NCSP has been phased in since 1 April 2003 with all 152 PCTs reporting data to the programme since March 2008. Non NCSP non GUM data have been collected since 1 April 2008 from laboratories in England and are reported to the NCSP. Therefore note that numbers of diagnoses have risen substantially as an increasing proportion of the target population have been tested.
3. Data are based on those aged 15-24 years inclusive.
4. Data are presented by PCT of residence and exclude those resident outside of England.
5. Data available from the NCSP are the number of diagnoses made and not the number of patients diagnosed.
6. Data presented are based on tests with confirmed positive diagnoses only.

Source:

The National Chlamydia Screening programme Core dataset. Date of data: 3 February 2010; Non NCSP non GUM data. Date of data: 03 March 2010

Table 2: Number of new HIV diagnoses from all services in Essex county and Mid Essex PCT, by sex: 2006-08 (calendar year)

Area	*STI*	*Year*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Mid Essex	HIV	2006	7	12	19
Mid Essex	HIV	2007	16	13	29
Mid Essex	HIV	2008	7	5	12
Essex County	HIV	2006	76	98	179
Essex County	HIV	2007	83	91	174

Table 2: Number of new HIV diagnoses from all services in Essex county and Mid Essex PCT by sex, 2006-08 (calendar years)

Area	*STI*	*Year*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Essex County	HIV	2008	51	63	114

Notes

1. Numbers will rise as further reports are received.
2. Diagnoses are from reports received to end December 2009.
3. Patients may live with HIV for many years before they are diagnosed. Therefore new diagnosis data do not necessarily reflect recently acquired infections.
4. Areas when presented are area of diagnosis and not of residence; there is evidence that a large proportion of individuals are diagnosed outside their PCT of residence.
5. Mid Essex PCT includes hospitals in the Mid Essex Hospital Trust area.
6. Data are unavailable for 2009.

Source:

Health Protection Agency. New HIV diagnoses in the United Kingdom. Date of data: 31 December 2009

Table 3: Number of Chlamydia diagnoses outside of GUM within Essex county by PCT and sex, 2006-09 (calendar year)

Area	*STI*	*Year*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*[1]
Mid Essex	Chlamydia	2006	0	<5	<5
Mid Essex	Chlamydia	2007	5	12	17
Mid Essex	Chlamydia	2008[2]	56	135	192
Mid Essex	Chlamydia	2009	210	334	544
North East Essex	Chlamydia	2006	<5	0	<5
North East Essex	Chlamydia	2007	<5	<5	7
North East Essex	Chlamydia	2008[2]	162	303	465
North East Essex	Chlamydia	2009	237	524	763
South East Essex	Chlamydia	2006	31	193	224
South East Essex	Chlamydia	2007	87	190	277
South East Essex	Chlamydia	2008[2]	106	354	462
South East Essex	Chlamydia	2009	149	418	569
South West Essex	Chlamydia	2006	9	22	31
South West Essex	Chlamydia	2007	26	93	119
South West Essex	Chlamydia	2008[2]	85	283	373
South West Essex	Chlamydia	2009	140	408	549
West Essex	Chlamydia	2006	<5	<5	10
West Essex	Chlamydia	2007	6	32	38
West Essex	Chlamydia	2008[2]	48	138	186
West Essex	Chlamydia	2009	47	201	251

[1] Total includes those with unknown/unspecified sex. Therefore the sum of male and female diagnoses might not equal the total number of diagnoses. Cells with numbers less than five and cells with the second lowest value where appropriate have been masked.

[2] NCSP data for 2008 include non NCSP non GUM information reported for the period 1 April 2008-31 December 2008.

Notes:

1. NCSP data consist of returns from the NCSP core dataset and non NCSP non GUM laboratory returns.
2. The NCSP has been phased in since 1 April 2003 with all 152 PCTs reporting data to the programme since March 2008. Non NCSP non GUM data have been collected since 1 April 2008 from laboratories in England and are reported to the NCSP. Therefore note that numbers of diagnoses have risen substantially as an increasing proportion of the target population have been tested.
3. Data are based on those aged 15-24 years inclusive.
4. Data are presented by PCT of residence and exclude those resident outside of England.
5. Data available from the NCSP are the number of diagnoses made and not the number of patients diagnosed.
6. Data presented are based on tests with confirmed positive diagnoses only.

Source:

The National Chlamydia Screening programme core dataset. Date of data: 3 February 2010. Non NCSP non GUM data. Date of data: 3 March 2010.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Rape: Victim Support Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much funding has been allocated to Baroness Stern's review of the treatment of survivors of rape by the police and other agencies in England and Wales. [316955]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office jointly commissioned the Stern Review with the Home Office.

Baroness Stern's review of rape reporting in England and Wales has been allocated up to a maximum of £170,000 programme spend.

In the course of her review, Baroness Stern has consulted widely with key stakeholders in all English regions and Wales, including police forces, local authorities, the Crown Prosecution Service, the health service and third sector organisations. She is also taking into account the work of Sara Payne, the Victims' Champion, and Sir George Alberti, who is leading a Department of Health taskforce on the health aspects of violence against women and girls.

As the review is still under way, final costs are yet to be established.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Education: International Cooperation

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many teachers and teaching assistants from each local authority have participated in the Teachers' International Professional Development Programme in each year since 2000; [318234]

(2) how much funding in respect of the Teachers' International Professional Development Programme has been allocated to each local authority in each year since 2000. [318235]

Mr. Coaker: There are three strands to the Teachers International Professional Development (TIPD) programme: local authority led study visits on a theme decided by the relevant local authority with 2000 places each year; school determined visits to examine a theme of study decided by the schools engaged, with 500 visits each year; and a programme of study visits to developing countries with 80 places each year.

The information on the number of teachers and teaching assistants from each local authority who have participated in the Teachers International Professional Development Programme visits for the period 2000-01 to 2006-07 is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Information on the number of teachers taking part in local authority led study visits by local authority; information on the number of teachers taking part in study visits on the developing country strand; and for school determined study visits for 2007-08, 2008-09 and the anticipated out-turn for 2009-10 has been placed in the House Libraries.

Funding for the Teachers International Professional Development (TIPD) programme is not distributed to local authorities. Funding passes to the four programme delivery organisations, each of which is contracted to deliver a specified number of places. Each provider receives an indication of how many places on the programme each local authority might expect, with places not taken up by local authorities re-allocated to authorities where demand outstrips their allocation.

Educational Institutions: Tower Hamlets

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many colleges in the London borough of Tower Hamlets had an application for accreditation refused in the last 12 months; [314850]

(2) how many colleges in the London borough of Tower Hamlets lost their accreditation in the last 12 months. [314851]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 3 February 2010]*: I have been asked to reply.

The UK Border Agency does not hold figures on the number of colleges applying for accreditation from one of its approved accrediting bodies for the purposes of educational quality. However, a total of eight colleges in the London borough of Tower Hamlets had an application for a Tier 4 Sponsor Licence refused in the last 12 months.

Faith Schools: Equality

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will bring forward legislative proposals to provide that the exceptions to the equality duty contemplated in clause 29 of and schedule 3, part 2 to the Equality Bill be extended to faith schools in the public sector; and if he will make a statement. [317017]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: In relation to their pupils, faith schools are not covered by clause 29 of the Equality Bill as a result of clause 28(2). They are instead covered by Part 6 of the Bill and the exceptions they need to operate are provided in that Part and in Schedule 11. In relation to other services and public functions provided by faith schools, the exceptions contained in Clause 29 will apply to all public bodies, including maintained faith schools. The exceptions in Part 2 of Schedule 3 apply mainly to local authorities in relation to their education functions. Where they need to apply more widely, including to maintained faith schools, they do. An example of this is paragraph 11 of the Schedule. There is no need for additional legislation.

Parenting Orders

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parenting orders were issued because of *(a)* poor behaviour in school and *(b)* truancy in (i) 1997, (ii) 2005 and (iii) the latest year for which figures are available. [317819]

Mr. Coaker: We have been collecting data on parenting orders since 2004.

The number of parenting orders made following truancy prosecution (ancillary orders) is 427 for 2004/05, 505 in 2005/06, 602 in 2007/08 and 396 for 2008/09.

All 150 local authorities have systems in place to use orders for behaviour in appropriate cases, but no orders have yet been issued. Parenting orders for behaviour are a last resort measure, intended only for parents that will not engage with voluntary measures, and were never expected to be used in great volume. The number of parenting contracts for behaviour accepted by parents is 410 for 2004/05, 1898 for 2005/06, 2535 for 2006/07, 2546 for 2007/08 and 3528 for 2008/09.

Personal Social and Health Education

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what training will be given to teachers of the personal, social, health and economic education curriculum to respond appropriately to a child or young person, who, during such teaching, discloses abuse. [312701]

Mr. Coaker: All school staff who work with children should undertake training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities for child protection effectively, which is kept up to date by refresher training at three-yearly intervals. In addition to this, all staff in schools should follow the guidance contained in "What to do if you're worried a child is being abused". This practice guidance tells people about the procedures to follow when passing on concerns and what will then happen.

Schools: Fires

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps he has taken to improve fire safety in schools. [318627]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 26 February 2010]*: DCSF has comprehensive guidance on fire safety in schools on its fire safety portal at:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/fire

In March 2007 the then Schools Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Dorset (Jim Knight), announced the Government's new policy on sprinklers and their value as a measure against arson. He said:

> "It is now our expectation that all new schools will have fire sprinklers installed. However, we do not intend to make this a compulsory measure. There may be a few cases where local authorities or other promoters of schools consider that sprinklers are not needed. If so, they will need to be able to demonstrate that such schools are low risk and that sprinklers would not represent good value for money."

Teachers: Training

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* applications were received for and *(b)* places were awarded on (i) graduate teacher programmes, (ii) Bachelor of Education programmes, (iii) Postgraduate Certificate of Education programmes and (iv) Teach First programmes in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [314909]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 2 February 2010]:* The table shows the number of applications and acceptances to mainstream postgraduate initial teacher training (ITT) courses in England for entry in 2009-10.

Postgraduate applications and acceptances to ITT courses; year of entry 2009-10 (provisional), Coverage: England

	Number of applications	Number of acceptances
Primary	20,440	8,660
Middle	500	330
Secondary	31,740	15,180
Total	52,670	24,170

Notes:

Figures presented in this table have been published in the GTTR website at:
http://www.gttr.ac.uk/providers/statistics/applicantstatistics/

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.

Some applications to postgraduate ITT courses are made independently of the GTTR and are not included in the figures.

Source:

Graduate Teacher Training Registry (GTTR)

The Annual Training and Development Agency for Schools Report states that there were 2,900 applications for Cohort 7 of the Teach First Programme (to start the scheme in 2009-10). Of these, 485 places were awarded.

Data on applications for mainstream undergraduate ITT (such as Bachelor of Education) and the Graduate Teacher Programme are not available centrally.

The number of recruits to ITT courses by the various routes and programmes has been published in Tables A1 and A2 of the Statistical First Release: School Workforce in England (23/2009) at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000874/index.shtml

These tables show that in 2009-10 there were 7,920 new entrants undergraduate ITT courses and 25,090 entrants to postgraduate ITT courses. The latest available full year data for employment based routes to ITT refer to 2008-09 and show there were 5,120 new entrants to the Graduate Teacher Programme and 370 entrants to the Teach First Programme.

Truancy

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and in what percentage of cases of parents charged with offences related to failing to ensure their child attended school have ended in a conviction since 1997. [318273]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 24 February 2010]:* Information from the Ministry of Justice court proceedings database on the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to failing to attend school in England, 2001 to 2008 can be viewed in the following table. Prior to 2001 these offences cannot be separately identified.

These data are a further breakdown of those published in the "Criminal Statistics, Supplementary Volumes for England and Wales" for the years 2001 to 2008.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts and average fine imposed for offences relating to 'failing to attend school'[1] [2]

	Year							
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Proceeded against	1,961	3,163	3,849	4,442	4,648	5,999	7,745	9,506
Found guilty	1,595	2,572	3,065	3,549	3,740	4,720	6,035	7,291
Percentage	81.3	81.3	79.6	79.9	80.5	78.7	77.9	76.7

[1] Includes the following.
(i) Failure to secure regular attendance at school. (Education Act 1996 S.444 (1)(8)).
(ii) Parent knows that their child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school. (Education Act 1996 S.444(8)(1a)(8a) added by Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 S.72).

[2] Prior to 2001 these offences cannot be separately identified.

Notes

1. The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice. [Ref: IOS 85-10]

The increase in the number of cases over this period reflects a sustained drive, led by the Government, to improve levels of school attendance including by encouraging local authorities to make more use of their powers to proceed against parents who are failing in their legal responsibility to ensure their children receive a full time education. The outcome has been a significant improvement in school attendance, with on average 70,000 more pupils in school each day than would be the case if absence rates were still at the level of 1996/97.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1091-92W, on pupils: absenteeism, if he will provide the equivalent figures for secondary schools in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2007-08; and if he will provide the equivalent figures for all schools in 2006-07. [318421]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 24 February 2010]*: The requested information is shown in the tables for 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08. For information on Persistent Absentees that are white British split by gender in 2006-07, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 548W.

Secondary schools[1]: Number and proportion of persistent absentees[2] by free school meal eligibility, in England

	All pupils[3]					
	Pupil enrolments who are eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees	*Proportion of pupil enrolments who are eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees[4]*	*Pupil enrolments who are not eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees*	*Proportion of pupil enrolments who are not eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees[4]*	*All pupil enrolments classified as persistent absentees*	*Proportion of pupil enrolments classified as persistent absentees[4]*
2005/06	71,130	16.0	142,180	5.5	217,390	7.1
2007/08	54,230	12.9	110,000	4.4	167,610	5.6

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed, city technology colleges and academies.

[2] Persistent absentees are defined as having 64 or more sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year, typically over 20 per cent. overall absence rate.

[3] Number of pupil enrolments in schools from start of the school year. Includes pupils on the roll for at least one session who are aged between five and 15, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once.

[4] The number of persistent absentee enrolments expressed as a percentage of the total number of enrolments with the same characteristics. *Note:* Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3]: Number and proportion of persistent absentees[4] by free school meal eligibility, 2006/07, in England

	Pupil enrolments who are eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees	*Proportion of pupil enrolments who are eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees[6]*	*Pupil enrolments who are not eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees*	*Proportion of pupil enrolments who are not eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees[6]*	*All pupil enrolments classified as persistent absentees*	*Proportion of pupil enrolments classified as persistent absentees[6]*
All pupils[5]	95,760	9.3	172,010	3.2	272,950	4.1

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Persistent absentees are defined as having 64 or more sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year, typically over 20 per cent. overall absence rate.

[5] Number of pupil enrolments in schools from start of the school year up until 25 May 2007. Includes pupils on the roll for at least one session who are aged between five and 15, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once.

[6] The number of persistent absentee enrolments expressed as a percentage of the total number of enrolments with the same characteristics.

Source:

School Census

Secondary schools[1]: Number and proportion of persistent absentees[2] by free school meal eligibility, in England

	White British[3]					
	Pupil enrolments who are eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees	*Proportion of pupil enrolments who are eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees[4]*	*Pupil enrolments who are not eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees*	*Proportion of pupil enrolments who are not eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees[4]*	*All pupil enrolments classified as persistent absentees*	*Proportion of pupil enrolments classified as persistent absentees[4]*
Boys						
2005/06	28,200	18.9	58,630	5.4	86,830	7.0
2007/08	21,060	15.5	43,490	4.2	64,540	5.5
Girls						
2005/06	28,970	19.6	62,600	5.9	91,570	7.6
2007/08	22,420	16.5	48,720	4.8	71,130	6.2

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed, city technology colleges and academies.

[2] Persistent absentees are defined as having 64 or more sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year, typically over 20 per cent. overall absence rate.

[3] Number of pupil enrolments in schools from start of the school year. Includes pupils on the roll for at least one session who are aged between five and 15, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once.

[4] The number of persistent absentee enrolments expressed as a percentage of the total number of enrolments with the same characteristics.

Note:

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning: Public Consultation

17. **Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms are in place to enable the views of local residents to be taken into account in the consideration of major planning decisions affecting their areas; and if he will make a statement. [321015]

Mr. Ian Austin: Requirements to publicise planning applications are set out in Article 8 of the General Development Procedure Order. For major developments, this will normally include a site notice or neighbour notification letters, and publication of a notice in a local newspaper.

All representations submitted by local residents within the set consultation period must be taken into account by the local planning authority in determining the application.

Local Government Representation

18. **Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on variations in the ratio between the number of people represented and councillors in different local authorities. [321016]

Mr. Malik: We have recently received representations on these matters in relation to certain unitary proposals we were considering and on the wards of a parish council in Bradford.

West Midlands Fire Service

19. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with the West Midlands fire service on emergency response times. [321017]

Mr. Malik: The Secretary of State has had no recent discussions with West Midlands fire and rescue service on emergency response times.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund

21. **Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of the working neighbourhoods fund which has been allocated to local authorities. [321019]

Mr. Denham: Since 2008, we have allocated over £1.5 billion of working neighbourhoods fund to help local authorities with high rates of worklessness support their communities. All of the fund is allocated to local authorities.

Regional Spatial Strategies

22. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to end regional spatial strategies. [321020]

Mr. Ian Austin: We have no plans to do so. The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act received Royal Assent in November 2009 and will commence on 1 April. Under the Act Regional Spatial Strategies will become part of the new single Regional Strategies.

Affordable Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Social HomeBuy sales have been completed in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* region in each year since 2005; and how many have been completed in 2009-10 to date. [320656]

Mr. Ian Austin: Table 1 shows the number of Social HomeBuy sales in each local authority area between April 2006 when the scheme started and March 2009.

Table 2 shows the number of Social HomeBuy sales in each Government Office region between April 2006 and March 2009.

During the six months 1 April 2009 to 30 September 2009, there were 59 completed Social HomeBuy sales by Registered Social Landlords. Figures for sales during this period by local authorities are not yet available.

Social HomeBuy is a voluntary and demand-led scheme in which only some social landlords chose to participate. It is one of several options available to help social tenants into home ownership. Purchasers can buy shares of between 25 and 100 per cent.

Table 1

	Social HomeBuy sales			
Local authority area	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Total*
Adur	—	1	—	1
Allerdale	—	1	3	4
Ashford	—	—	1	1
Barking and Dagenham	—	0	1	1
Barnet	—	—	1	1
Basingstoke and Deane	—	3	—	3
Bexley	—	2	2	4
Birmingham	—	2	6	8
Bradford	3	2	1	6
Brent	—	5	1	6
Brighton and Hove	1	0	—	1
Bromley	—	5	2	7
Burnley	—	—	1	1
Camden	—	—	1	1
Cheltenham	—	1	—	1
Chorley	3	1	—	4
Copeland	—	1	6	7
Coventry	0	2	1	3
Crawley	—	7	—	7
Croydon[1]	6	3	8	17
Dudley	—	—	1	1
Durham	—	1	—	1
Ealing	—	3	—	3
Eastbourne	—	2	—	2
Eastleigh	—	1	—	1
Enfield	—	2	—	2
Greenwich	—	5	—	5
Hackney	2	12	1	15

Table 1

Local authority area	*Social HomeBuy sales*			
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Total*
Hammersmith and Fulham	10	4	1	15
Haringey	—	—	1	1
Hart	—	2	—	2
Hertsmere	—	1	1	2
Hillingdon	2	0	—	2
Hounslow	—	5	—	5
Islington	—	—	2	2
Kensington and Chelsea	3	7	2	12
Kingston upon Hull	6	0	—	6
Knowsley	—	—	1	1
Lambeth	—	—	1	1
Leeds	2	2	—	4
Leicester	—	1	—	1
Lewisham	—	1	—	1
Liverpool	—	1	—	1
Luton	—	—	1	1
Manchester	1	15	—	16
Merton	—	—	1	1
Middlesbrough	1	3	—	4
Milton Keynes	—	1	—	1
Newham	—	2	9	11
North Hertfordshire	—	1	—	1
Oldham	—	1	7	8
Pendle	—	1	—	1
Plymouth	—	1	—	1
Redcar and Cleveland	—	1	—	1
Richmond upon Thames	—	1	—	1
Rochdale	—	—	1	1
Sefton	—	13	—	13
Sevenoaks	—	—	1	1
Sheffield	—	1		1
South Tyneside	1	2	1	4
Southampton	—	—	2	2
Southend-on-Sea	—	1	—	1
Southwark[2]	—	21	4	25
Sunderland	—	—	6	6
Tameside	—	—	1	1
Test Valley	—	1	—	1
The Wrekin	—	2	3	5
Tower Hamlets	—	—	2	2
Tunbridge Wells	—	—	4	4
Waltham Forest	1	0	4	5
Wellingborough	3	1	—	4
Welwyn Hatfield	—	1	—	1
West Berkshire	—	1	2	3
Westminster	—	1	—	1
Wirral	—	—	3	3
Woking	1	1	—	2
Wychavon	—	—	1	1
York	1	1	—	2
Grand Total	47	160	99	306

[1] Croydon figure in 2008-09 includes four sales by the local authority.

[2] Southwark figures include five sales by the local authority, three in 2007-08 and two in 2008-09.

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency

Table 2

Region	*Number of Social HomeBuy sales*
North East	16
North West	61
Yorkshire and the Humber	19
West Midlands	18
East Midlands	5
East	6
South East	32
Greater London	147
South West	2
Total	306

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which constituencies the leaflet Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour, ISBN: 978-1-4098-2156-4, was delivered in the month of February 2010. [321215]

Barbara Follett: The leaflet was delivered to a number of local authority areas that have made tackling antisocial behaviour a priority within their Local Area Agreement and/or which are facing particular ASB challenges within their area. A table of the local authority areas that received the leaflet and the corresponding constituencies has been place in the Library of the House.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in each year since 2005. [320778]

Barbara Follett: For the last three years the Department has published in its annual report details of expenditure on consultancy by the Department itself, its executive agencies, the Planning Inspectorate, Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre and Fire Service College as well as the Ordnance Survey and Government offices. Details of expenditure from other non-departmental bodies are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Figures for earlier years could be supplied at only disproportionate cost.

For 2006-07 spend (contained in chapter 10, table 4—page 115)

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/2007-annual-report.pdf

For 2007-08 spend (contained in chapter 10, table 5—page 141)

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/05.pdf

For 2008-09 spend (contained in chapter 10, table 13—page 165)

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/1281142.pdf

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of a print-out of the section of his Department's staff handbook relating to disciplinary proceedings. [319140]

Barbara Follett: A copy of the pages of the Department's staff handbook relating to disciplinary proceedings will be placed in the Library of the House.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* disciplinary and *(b)* capability procedures have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed in his Department in each of the last five years; how much time on average was taken to complete each type of procedure in each such year; how many and what proportion of his Department's staff were subject to each type of procedure in each such year; and how many and what proportion of each type of procedure resulted in the dismissal of the member of staff. [320635]

Barbara Follett: In each of the three years following the creation of the Department for Communities and Local Government, 2006, 2007 and 2008, there were less than five disciplinary or capability procedures. As a consequence, further details cannot be provided without compromising individual confidentiality.

In 2009, nine disciplinary procedures were initiated against CLG staff, six of which were completed. These nine cases represented less than 1 per cent. of the Department's total population and each case took, on average, 2.8 months to process. The number of dismissals resulting from the disciplinary procedures is less than five and as a consequence, further details cannot be provided without compromising individual confidentiality.

In 2009, seven staff were the subject of formal capability procedures of which less than five were taken to a formal conclusion. As a consequence, further details cannot be provided without compromising individual confidentiality. These seven cases represented less than 1 per cent. of the Department's total population and each case took, on average, 1.6 months to process. No dismissals resulted from any of these cases.

In 2010, there have been less than five procedures initiated in relation to capability and discipline and as a consequence, further details cannot be provided without compromising individual confidentiality.

Empty Property

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty *(a)* commercial and *(b)* residential properties there were in (i) St. Albans constituency, (ii) Hertfordshire and (iii) England in each of the last five years. [320848]

Barbara Follett: The number of empty residential properties in the St. Albans local authority area, in Hertfordshire and in England in 2005 to 2009 are shown in the following table.

	St. Albans	*Hertfordshire*	*England*
2005	1,313	10,509	723,509
2006	1,471	10,620	744,931
2007	1,446	10,494	763,319
2008	1,348	10,391	783,119
2009	1,317	10,706	770,661

The empty residential dwelling data include both short-term and long-term empty dwellings as reported annually by all billing authorities in England in October of the year. Data are not available at a constituency level.

Estimates of the number of empty non-domestic hereditaments in the St. Albans local authority area and in England as at 31 March 2008 and 31 March 2009, the only years for which data are available, are shown in the following table. Data for Hertfordshire are not available.

	31 March 2008	*31 March 2009*
St. Albans	389	293
Hertfordshire	n/a	n/a
England	237,000	237,000

n/a = Not available

The data are as reported by all billing authorities in England at the date specified. Again, data are not available at a constituency level.

Energy Performance Certificates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department plans to correct incorrect data lodged on the Energy Performance Certificate Register between 18 September 2008 and June 2009. [320259]

Mr. Ian Austin: Action is taken to correct any Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) data that are identified as incorrect either as a result of ongoing quality assurance procedures or as a result of a customer complaint.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which division of his Department is responsible for the *(a)* development and *(b)* distribution of software for (i) calculating energy efficiency ratings and (ii) lodging energy performance certificates. [320260]

Mr. Ian Austin: Home Buying, Selling and Energy Performance Division leads on all aspects of Energy Performance Certificate policy. They are responsible for the development and distribution of three software packages used to produce Energy Performance Certificates. These are Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) for new build dwellings, Reduced data Standard Assessment Procedure (RdSAP) for existing dwellings and Simplified Building Energy Model (SBEM) for non-dwellings.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the software used to calculate standard assessment procedure ratings for energy performance certificates between September 2008 and June 2009; and whether certificates lodged between those dates are valid. [320281]

Mr. Ian Austin: Only software that has been validated and approved by the Department can be used to produce Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs). The standard software produced by the Department is continually monitored and upgraded on a regular basis. Any EPC produced by an accredited energy assessor using approved software is considered to be valid.

Fire Services

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on response times of fire and rescue services. [321010]

Mr. Malik: The Secretary of State has received no recent representations on the response times of fire and rescue services. However, it is the case that our jurisdiction is limited to England.

Homes and Communities Agency: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 959W, on the Homes and Communities Agency: finance, (1) what steps the agency *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to save £30 million from the Community Infrastructure Fund; and if he will make a statement; [320929]

(2) when he expects the agency to *(a)* identify and *(b)* announce the programmes from which the remaining £25 million of efficiencies will be made; [320930]

(3) for what purpose the £26 million in recycled receipts from the Derelict Land Grant programme had originally been intended; and if he will make a statement; [320931]

(4) what steps the agency *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to save £2 million from the Property and Regeneration programme; and if he will make a statement; [320932]

(5) what steps the agency *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to find £50 million from making efficiencies within the national affordable housing programme; and if he will make a statement. [320933]

John Healey: As part of the funding for the Housing Pledge, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) was asked to find £183 million across 2009-10 and 2010-11 through efficient and flexible management of its housing and regeneration programmes.

For the Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) the HCA has sought greater efficiencies within project timescales by local authorities and looked to encourage alternative funding sources either locally or by substitution of funding from other related sources.

In respect of the Land and Property programme and Derelict Land Grant, the additional receipts returned to the HCA were allowed to be retained by the Agency to fund the Housing Pledge. Given the uncertain timing of all Derelict Land Grant receipts, the £26 million had not been earmarked for any specific programme prior to being allocated to the Housing Pledge.

Efficiencies are being achieved through the NAHP through the competitive bidding process and value for money assessment of the various schemes.

All this has enabled HCA to find £158 million of efficiencies over 2009-10 and 2010-11, the remaining £25 million will be identified by the HCA through the current business planning process where the targets and profiles of programmes are being closely examined and tested.

Homes and Communities Agency: Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 958-9W, on the Homes and Communities Agency, what the average salary of a head of function was in 2009-10. [320928]

John Healey: The average salary for a head of function in 2009-10 was £89,500.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to allow with immediate effect local authorities to spend all their right-to-buy receipts ring-fenced on housing revenue account housing. [320809]

Mr. Ian Austin: The proposal to allow local authorities to retain capital receipts from the sale of housing assets, including under Right to Buy arrangements, was included in the Government's consultation paper "Reform of council housing finance" issued in July 2009. This is directly linked to the main proposal made in that paper to move towards a new self-financing arrangement for councils which own social housing. I expect to make a further announcement to provide more detail on the self financing package of proposals in the next few weeks.

We have already announced that newly built or acquired council homes can be excluded from the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy system through an agreement with the Secretary of State, which would allow the local authority to keep the full receipt should those homes subsequently be sold.

Housing: Empty Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many homes were vacant for a period of more than six months in each local authority area in each of the last three years; [320837]

(2) how many homes were vacant in each local authority area in each of the last three years. [320918]

Barbara Follett: I have today placed in the Library of the House a table giving details of the number of long-term vacant homes (i.e. vacant for more than six months) and total vacant homes in each local authority area in England in each of the last three years.

These data are as reported on the "Calculation of Council Tax Base for Formula Grant Purposes" (CTB) forms completed by all the Billing authorities in England as at a specified date in October each year.

Lighthouse Project: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Government Office for the West Midlands and *(c)* each of his Department's agencies has given to the Lighthouse project in each year to date. [320723]

Barbara Follett: The Government Office for the West Midlands has not directly allocated any funding to this project.

Local Government: Apprentices

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the number of apprentices each local authority employed in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [320796]

Barbara Follett: The National Apprenticeships Service is responsible for monitoring the number of apprentices within the public and private sector, including local authorities. Details can be found on their website

http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/About-Us/Performance-data.aspx

Authorities recently volunteered information on the overall number of apprenticeships across the sector this year to the Department, and aggregate information was included in a press notice issued by Communities and Local Government on 2 February this year.

Multiple Occupation: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate his Department has made of *(a)* the proportion of affordable housing in London provided in houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) and *(b)* the number of people living in HMOs in London. [321351]

John Healey: This information is not held centrally.

Property Development: Floods

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of new dwellings have been built in areas at risk of flooding in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area in each year since 1997. [320527]

Mr. Ian Austin: Annual information of the percentage of new dwellings built in areas of high flood risk by Government office region since 1989 is published in Land Use Change Statistics Live Table 251. The table can be found at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningbuilding/planningstatistics/livetables/landusechange/

Statistics on the proportion of new dwellings built in flood risk areas by local authority area are not currently published and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Tenancy Deposit Schemes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which tenancy deposit schemes charge for services related to adjudicating on disputes relating to the deposit. [320820]

Mr. Ian Austin: None of the three Government-approved tenancy deposit protection scheme providers are permitted, under the terms of their contracts, to make direct charges for their alternative dispute resolution services.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the financial viability of each of the authorised tenancy deposit schemes; and whether his Department has responsibility to ensure the financial viability of such schemes. [320926]

Mr. Ian Austin: The three tenancy deposit protection schemes are operated by private companies under contract with Communities and Local Government and are designed to be self-financing. All the contracts contain safeguards to ensure the financial viability of the schemes.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when each tenancy deposit scheme provider's contract expires. [320927]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department for Communities and Local Government's contracts with the three tenancy deposit protection scheme providers for the provision of tenancy deposit protection schemes will run until the end of March 2012. All three contracts have the option of a further one year extension.

Valuation Office

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 15 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 766W, on the Valuation Office Agency, whether any changes have been made since May 2006 to the Valuation Office Agency's *(a)* powers and *(b)* policy on revaluing, re-assessing or re-classifying a domestic hereditament or composite hereditament after (i) a material change to a property and (ii) a council tax appeal. [319647]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

There have been no changes to the *(a)* powers granted to listing officers of the Valuation Office Agency since May 2006. In two limited respects *(b)* the approach to the banding or identification of a domestic hereditament, or a composite hereditament, has changed.

(i) After a material change

In finding that changes to the curtilage of a property created a new hereditament, the Lands Tribunal case of Baker(VO) v. Tower Hamlets in 2007 clarified the law relating to the identification of hereditaments. Any material change to the curtilage of a dwelling, such as reduction or increase of plot size, will create a new or different dwelling, which must be entered with an appropriate band in a council tax valuation list.

(ii) After a council tax proposal

Where it has become apparent that an agreement has created a valuation list entry that is inaccurate, VOA advice has been clarified to make it clear that the listing officer is empowered to correct it.

Both these changes are reflected in Council Tax Manual Practice Notes, which are published on the Valuation Office Agency's website.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many retailers in each local authority area in the South East were convicted for selling alcohol to minors in the last 12 months. [320814]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of persons found guilty at all courts and the number of penalty notices for disorder (PND) given for the sale of alcohol to a person under 18 years, broken down by police force area (PFA) in England and Wales 2008 can be viewed in the following table. The PFAs in the South East are Kent, Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex and Thames Valley.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are due to be published in the autumn 2010.

Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDS) issued, defendants found guilty at all courts for selling alcohol to a person aged under 18[1], England and Wales 2008[2]

Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDS) issued, defendants found guilty at all courts for selling alcohol to a person aged under 18[1], England and Wales 2008[2]

Police force area	*Convictions*[3]	*Penalty notice for disorder*
Avon and Somerset	6	61
Bedfordshire	—	24
Cambridgeshire	8	12
Cheshire	7	24
Cleveland	8	60
Cumbria	3	26
Derbyshire	16	186
Devon and Cornwall	1	58
Dorset	3	46
Durham	6	22
Dyfed Powys	2	35
Essex	7	56
Gloucestershire	29	33
Greater Manchester	6	135
Gwent	2	33
Hampshire	—	132
Hertfordshire	6	29
Humberside	27	69
Kent	9	35
Lancashire	6	170
Leicestershire	17	101
Lincolnshire	65	56
Merseyside	1	121
Metropolitan	5	260
Norfolk	10	13
North Wales	1	43
North Yorkshire	4	3
Northamptonshire	4	24
Northumbria	16	35
Nottinghamshire	1	49
South Wales	6	64
South Yorkshire	5	214
Staffordshire	1	38
Suffolk	—	26
Surrey	3	45
Sussex	32	97
Thames Valley	7	117
Warwickshire	1	10
West Mercia	3	45
West Midlands	7	77
West Yorkshire	8	122
Wiltshire	17	18
England and Wales	366	2,824

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes convictions data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were *(a)* issued and *(b)* breached in the Chelmsford local authority area in each of the last five years. [320350]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 4 March 2010]:* The latest available data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued and breached cover the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2007. Data on the number of ASBOs issued collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice are not available below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level. A further breakdown could be ascertained only by reference to individual court files, which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Data on breaches of ASBOs collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice and held on the Court Proceedings Database only count those occasions where the breach was proven in court to have occurred. These data are not compiled below CJS area level.

The available information is shown in the table.

Number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued all courts[1] and the number breached[2] in the Essex Criminal Justice System (CJS) area, 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2007

CJS area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Essex					
Issued	23	79	88	32	28
Breached	2	28	57	39	20

[1] Includes ASBOs issued on application by magistrates courts acting in their civil capacity and county courts, which became available on 1 April 1999 and ASBOs made following conviction for a relevant criminal offence at the Crown court and at magistrates courts (acting in their criminal capacity), which became available on 2 December 2002.

[2] ASBOs may be breached more than once and in more than one year. In this table ASBOs are counted once only within the period when they were first breached. For these reasons breach rates cannot be computed from the figures presented in this table. ASBOs may be issued in one area and breached in another. Breaches are counted in this table by area of issue.

Notes:

1. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
2. Previously issued data have been revised.

Antisocial Behaviour: Alcoholic Drinks

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effect of alcohol use on the level of antisocial behaviour. [320794]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Problems with drunk or rowdy behaviour form one component of the overall measure of antisocial behaviour that is routinely included in the British Crime Survey. The latest figures, for the 12 months ending September 2009, show that there has been a reduction in the proportion of people with a high level of perceived antisocial behaviour in their local area (down from 17 per cent. to 15 per cent. year on year) and a reduction from 26 per cent. to 25 per cent. of those who perceive problems with drunk and rowdy behaviour.

The update can be found at the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0210.pdf

Asylum

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he has taken to increase the rate of removal of failed asylum seekers since May 2005. [320607]

Mr. Woolas: The Government's measures include memoranda of understanding and readmission agreements with overseas governments to increase returns and re-documentation rates; regular charter services to countries where it would otherwise be difficult to return significant numbers because of lack of capacity on scheduled services; joint charters with other EU member states; Assisted Voluntary Return schemes offering enhanced packages to encourage voluntary return; close liaison with the judiciary to allow for the expeditious processing of legal challenges and changes to the judicial review policy to counter vexatious applications for judicial review; and expansion of the UK Border Agency detention estate.

In addition, we have made it increasingly difficult for people to live and work here who have no right to do so through toughening the illegal working legislation. Employers now face large fines if they hire illegal migrant workers including failed asylum seekers. Also, local immigration teams, backed by Immigration Crime Partnerships with the police, are in the process of being established across the country to track down, detain and remove all immigration offenders.

Asylum: Newcastle upon Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether drinkable water is available on each floor of the Angel Heights asylum seeker hostel in Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne; and what payments his Department has made to the Angel Group in respect of this hostel since 2006. [320711]

Mr. Woolas: Drinkable water is available from all four floors of the building. The UK Border Agency has made payments of £1,030,919.68 to the Angel Group for accommodating eligible asylum seekers in Angel Heights since 2006.

Binyam Mohamed

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he provided an authorisation under section 7 of the Intelligence Services Act 1994 in relation to the interrogation of Binyam Mohamed. [320947]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 8 March 2010]:* The Government do not comment on intelligence matters.

Communications Capabilities Directorate

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff are employed *(a)* within the Communications Capabilities Directorate and *(b)* on projects associated with the Communications Capabilities Directorate. [318268]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 24 February 2010]:* 147 staff currently work within the Directorate. This number will be reduced significantly during 2010. The Directorate has links with other areas of the Home Office but no other Home Office staff work full-time on projects associated with Directorate's work.

Deportation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many removal notices for unsuccessful asylum seekers have been issued in each year since 1997. [320651]

Mr. Woolas: The number of IS151As, which is a notice to a person liable to removal, issued to failed asylum seekers (FAS) by the UK Border Agency in each year since 2003 is shown in the following table. Data for previous years were not recorded centrally and would require the examination of individual records at disproportionate cost to extract.

Calendar year	*Number of IS151As issued to FAS*
2003	20,611
2004	34,748
2005	26,309
2006	23,855
2007	25,666
2008	26,832
2009	25,618

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

The IS151A does not necessarily signify that the UK Border Agency is making immediate efforts to remove that person at that time, as there may be numerous barriers to removal (such as an outstanding asylum claim or appeal right) which must first be considered; should the person subsequently be granted leave then the IS151A is no longer valid. Therefore, the issue of such a form does not correlate with the numbers of people actually removed from the UK. Removal directions are set at the end of the process when any barriers to removal are resolved.

Drugs

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effects on society of the use of psychoactive substances by individuals. [319668]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has published research which addresses the effect on society of Class A drug use:

> 'The economic and social costs of Class A drug use in England and Wales in 2003-04', provides a measure of the total costs to society of Class A drug use. In Measuring different aspects of problem drug use: methodological developments
>
> http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/rdsolr1606.pdf
>
> 'Measuring the harm from illegal drugs using the Drug Harm Index 2006', provides an overarching measure of the harm caused by illegal drugs including drug-related crime, community perceptions of drug use and drug dealing and the various health consequences that arise from drug misuse.
>
> http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/horr13.pdf

In addition, assessment of a drug's societal harms is made on a case by case basis informed by advice from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) in respect of those drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 or which have been considered for control. The ACMD's recent reports can be found at:

> http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/drugs-laws/acmd/index.html

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the *(a)* level of availability and *(b)* price of mephedrone on the internet; and what estimate he has made of the average street price of cocaine in the last 12 months. [320341]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 4 March 2010]*: Mephedrone is sold in the UK through shops and online from websites under the guise of a research chemical, plant food or bath salts. It can be purchased from the internet at between £10 and £15 per gram.

The street cocaine market is multi-tiered and a gram of cocaine can be sold for between £20 and £70, with a most common price of £40. What is being sold as cocaine by local dealers, typically contains less than 20 per cent. cocaine hyd[illegible]

Electronic Government: International Cooperation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) is playing in the EU's STORK programme; and what recent discussions the IPS has had with its EU counterparts on storing fingerprints on microchips. [320913]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) is leading the UK contribution to Project STORK as a member of a consortium within the EU who are working together to pilot a cross border solution for the delivery of e-services. The project is part of the European Union Competitiveness and Innovation Framework programme.

IPS has frequent contact with many of its EU counterparts, both bilaterally and during the course of EU policy and technical meetings, where the use of fingerprints in travel documents is sometimes discussed.

Entry Clearances

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken was to process an application for a spousal visa in each of the last six months. [320847]

Mr. Woolas: The global average processing time for spouse visas in each of the six months from August 2009 to January 2010 was as follows:

Processing times—spouse visas

Month	*Working days to resolve*
August 2009	28
September 2009	33
October 2009	25
November 2009	18
December 2009	16
January 2010	20

The target is to process 95 per cent. of settlement visas within 60 working days.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median time was to process an application for leave to remain in December 2009. [320894]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is as follows:

Days

	Number
Mean	40
Median	48

Note:
These figures are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information. They are therefore provisional and subject to change. Figures relate to cases which were decided by 3 March 2010.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the longest-standing application for leave to remain is for which processing is yet to be completed by his Department. [320895]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not available centrally and could be provided only by examination of individual case files. Long standing applications arise for a variety of reasons.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of private colleges that have closed as a result of a failure to gain Government accreditation as bona fide institutions offering courses for overseas students in the last 12 months. [314604]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 3 February 2010]*: Since 31 March 2009, any institution wishing to bring non European economic area nationals to the UK to study must undergo a two-stage process of inspection, audit or accreditation, followed by licensing by the UK Border Agency for immigration purposes. This process has reduced the number of institutions able to bring students to the UK from over 4,000 to approximately 2,000.

There is no estimate of the number of private colleges that have closed as a result of failure to gain accreditation from an accreditation body as distinct from sponsor licensing for UKBA purposes. If a private college does not have accreditation it does not prevent it offering courses to UK or other EEA nationals outside of Tier 4 of the points based system.

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of private colleges that have received and subsequently lost accreditation as a bona fide institution offering courses for overseas students *(a)* temporarily and *(b)* permanently. [314605]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 3 February 2010]*: Five private colleges that held a tier 4 sponsor licence at one time have since lost accreditation from their approved body and had their sponsor licence removed. The UK Border Agency does not hold any information on whether these institutions have since re-applied to the accrediting body. As at 31 January 2010 UKBA had revoked the licences of 15 educational institutions.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many tier 4 applications are awaiting decision in *(a)* India, *(b)* Nepal and *(c)* Bangladesh. [320946]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 8 March 2010]*: As of the end of January, the number of Tier 4 student visa applications lodged at our visa application centres in India, Nepal and Bangladesh that were awaiting a decision were as follows:

	Number
India	20,432
Nepal	6,783
Bangladesh	3,060

Firearms: Crime

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many instances of crimes involving a gun have been reported to *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend police in each year since 1997; and how many such reports led to a (i) prosecution and (ii) conviction. [320649]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Available information relates to offences recorded by the police in Essex in which firearms were reported to have been used from 1997 to 2008-09 and are given in tables (A) and (B). This information is not collected centrally for Southend.

Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument or used as a threat against a person.

Information on prosecutions and convictions is not available centrally as specific circumstances of the offences are not collected beyond definitions provided by the statutes.

Table A: Offences recorded by the police in Essex in which firearms were reported to have been used[1], 1997 to 2001-02

	Air-weapons	*Non air-weapons*	*Total*
1997	211	58	269
1998-99[2]	270	47	317
1999-2000	283	61	344
2000-01	279	77	356
2001-02[3]	448	98	546

[1] By weapon being fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat.

[2] There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.

[3] Figures may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.

Table B: Offences recorded by the police in Essex in which firearms were reported to have been used[1], 2002-03 to 2008-09

	Air-weapons	*Non air-weapons*	*Total*
2002-03[2]	584	148	732
2003-04	608	145	753
2004-05[3]	360	193	553
2005-06	323	280	603
2006-07	308	255	563
2007-08	289	260	549
2008-09	196	176	372

[1] By weapon being fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat.

[2] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

[3] More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons introduced on 1 April 2004 may have increased the recording of firearm offences, particularly those committed by imitation weapons.

Identity Cards: Databases

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 77W, on identity cards: databases, what the prescribed circumstances are under which information may be provided from the National Identity Register under the Identity Cards Act 2006; and to which organisations such information has been provided. [314334]

Meg Hillier: The Identity Cards Act 2006, and secondary legislation made there under, sets out who can be provided with information from an individual's entry on the Register and under what circumstances. In particular, the Identity Cards Act 2006 (Provision of Information without Consent) Regulations 2009, and the Identity Cards Act 2006 (Information and Code of Practice on Penalties) Order 2009 prescribe government departments and public authorities respectively who may be provided with information without the consent of the individual.

So far, information has been provided to the Home Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office so that the UK Border Agency and consular posts abroad can be notified of any identity cards that have been reported lost or stolen.

Identity Cards: Marketing

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on *(a)* advertising, *(b)* marketing, *(c)* branding and *(d)* public relations in respect of (i) identity cards and (ii) the National Identity Register. [305109]

Meg Hillier: The information is as follows:

(a) The Identity and Passport Service has to date spent £1,299,000 on buying advertising space to communicate to the business community nationally and to consumers in Greater Manchester, north west England and London in respect of (i) and

(ii). The messages, both online and offline highlighted general issues around the risks of identity theft and fraud and encouraged people to be "idsmart" by being aware of the risks.

(b) The IPS has to date spent £87,700 on developing and printing marketing material such as brochures, leaflets and application guidance notes for consumers in Greater Manchester, north-west of England, London and airside workers in respect of (i) and (ii).

(c) The IPS has to date spent £11,930 on branding in respect of (i) and (ii).

(d) The IPS has to date spent £0 (nothing) on public relations in respect of (i) and (ii).

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff his Department and its agencies have appointed who were later discovered to be illegal immigrants since 2005. [320440]

Mr. Woolas: In 2005 one appointed member of staff was discovered to be working illegally, although he was in the country legitimately. There have been no more cases since.

Immigration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the number of older, non-asylum cases considered by the UK Border Agency which have resulted in *(a)* removal and *(b)* the award of a grant in each of the last five years; and how many such cases remain outstanding. [317319]

Mr. Woolas: The chief executive of the UK Border Agency Lin Homer, reported in her letter to the Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) on 4 February 2010 about the group of older, non-asylum cases where the application has been dealt with, but where there is no formal record that the individual has left the country.

This review is in the early stages and the UK Border Agency has concluded just over 200 cases. The Agency is currently working on those cases that fall into the exceptional circumstances criteria for expedition and is planning to increase resource allocated to this work as the clearance of casework backlogs is completed. The Agency is planning that all of the remaining files will be reviewed and archived by summer 2011. Lin Homer will provide a further progress update on the conclusion of these cases in the next update to HASC.

Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what representations he has received on potential changes to the freight data capture powers given to the police by the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006; [320554]

(2) how many times the freight data capture powers contained within the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 have been used by each police force since the Act came into force. [320555]

Alan Johnson: The requirement for individuals and companies to supply information on the movement of freight is included in Section 33 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. These powers can only be used once the Secretary of State has made an order subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House. Such an order has not yet been made and thus the powers have not so far been introduced.

In autumn 2009, in light of the economic climate, the Home Office concluded that it would not be appropriate to introduce such an order at this time, due to the potential and uncertain impact on industry. The Home Office is working with partners and industry representatives to identify ways that the objectives can be achieved while minimising industry impact.

Since the Act was passed it has become increasingly evident that industry concerns in relations to the costs and other burdens of facilitating this power should be considered fully before secondary legislation is laid before Parliament. Representations have been made from a range of industry representatives and Home Office officials have met a range of these representatives and discussed many of their concerns.

Representations have dealt broadly with the costs of introducing systems which would be able to provide information to the police; the type of information that would be required; the breadth of the information required in relation to the periods covered, and the detail of the information and the operating models for any systems which may be introduced. Representations have also been made in relation to the inclusion of these powers in the Draft Immigration (Simplification) Bill, which would replace the 2006 Act.

The incorporation of s.33 in the new Bill does not represent any change in policy and we remain committed to consult formally with industry before introducing secondary legislation before Parliament.

We are confident that the measures in place for countering the threats to the UK in relation to the movements of goods match the current level of threat and remain mindful of the need to balance the need to facilitate trade while ensuring that our capability to counter this threat remains effective.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letters of 3 and 15 February 2010 from the hon. Member for Walsall North. [320345]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 4 March 2010]:* The chief executive of the UK Border Agency wrote to my hon. Friend on 4 March 2010.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letter of 20 January 2010 from the hon. Member for Walsall North to the UK Border Agency concerning a resident in his constituency, references 51397020 and B21167/9. [320346]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 4 March 2010]:* The deputy director for the North West of the UK Border Agency, Kevin Romano, wrote to my hon. Friend on 4 March 2010.

Police: Vehicles

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department issues guidance to police forces on the provision of vehicular support to police officers investigating suspected gang-related activity. [321260]

Mr. Hanson: Neither the Home Office, nor any of its agencies, has issued any such guidance.

Sexual Offences

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people have been *(a)* arrested for, *(b)* prosecuted for, *(c)* convicted for and *(d)* acquitted of offences of sexual assault in each of the last 10 years; [320118]

(2) how many people have been *(a)* arrested for, *(b)* prosecuted for, *(c)* convicted for and *(d)* acquitted of offences of rape in each of the last 10 years. [320119]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

The offence of arrests on suspicion of sexual assaults and offence of rape is not a notifiable offence and does not form part of this collection.

Information provided by the Ministry of Justice state the number of people proceeded against, found guilty and proceedings that did not lead to a finding of guilt at all courts for rape and sexual assault, England and Wales 1999 to 2008 (latest available) is given in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned to be published in the autumn 2010.

Persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and proceedings that did not lead to a finding of guilt at all courts for rape[1], and sexual assault[2], England and Wales 1999 to 2008[3, 4, 5]

Number

Offence	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceedings that did not lead to a finding of guilt[6]*
Rape[1]			
1999	1,986	561	1,425
2000	1,865	519	1,346
2001	2,417	494	1,923
2002	2,698	548	2,150
2003	2,550	563	1,967
2004	2,453	644	1,809
2005	2,558	694	1,864
2006	2,335	734	1,561
2007	2,138	777	1,364
2008	2,181	822	1,354
Sexual assault[2]			
1999	4,627	2,868	1,758
2000	4,354	2,633	1,721
2001	4,496	2,517	1,979
2002	4,651	2,590	2,063
2003	4,846	2,467	2,379
2004	4,920	2,608	2,312
2005	4,106	2,238	1,868
2006	3,764	2,052	1,712
2007	3,548	2,103	1,445
2008	3,364	2,129	1,244

[1] Includes: Rape of a female and male (excludes attempted rape).

[2] Data include the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions: Sexual assault on a male; Sexual assault on a female.

[3] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[5] Excludes convictions data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

[6] "Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt" covers defendants tried and found not guilty as well as proceedings that were discontinued or cases where no evidence was offered, charges were withdrawn or the judge ruled that there was no case to answer.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

UK Border Agency: Complaints

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints about asylum applications submitted since March 2007 were made to the UK Border Agency in each of the last five years. [320885]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency does not hold central information to the level of detail asked for in this question. However, data are available relating to all types of complaints about the service that the Agency provides. In 2008 there were 10,835 such complaints received by the Agency and in 2009 there were 12,038.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Advertising

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department has spent to date on each of its current radio advertising campaigns; and what the purpose is of each such campaign. [319451]

Jonathan Shaw: Please find as follows details of DWP's current radio advertising campaigns showing spend committed so far for financial year 2009-10.

The figures represent the cost of buying media for each campaign. All media buying is done through the Central Office of Information, who show an average of a 49 per cent. saving over rate-card media costs.

Each of these campaigns:

supports a departmental objective or public service agreement;

has performance measures set;

is evaluated against those measures; and

has proven effectiveness against its targets.

Spend financial year 2009-10

	£
Targeting Benefit Thieves	
To help reduce the incidence of benefit fraud by stressing the risk of being caught	890,000
Planning and Saving for Later Life	
To prepare for changes to the state pension coming into effect in April	760,000
Backing Young Britain	
To motivate employers to provide more opportunities for young people (16 to 24) seeking jobs, work experience or skills development	250,000
Find Your Way Back to Work	
To help people get back into work, specifically to increase awareness and use of Jobcentre Plus online help and advice and promote effective job-seeking	1,170,000
Pension Credit	
To drive take-up of pension credit, in order to help reduce pensioner poverty	80,000

Departmental Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff her Department and its agencies have appointed who were later discovered to be illegal immigrants since 2005. [320447]

Jonathan Shaw: People employed to work in Government Departments and their agencies, either directly or through a contractor, are required to satisfy requirements on identity, nationality and immigration status prior to the offer of employment.

My Department has no record of having employed an illegal immigrant in the last five years.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many performance reviews were undertaken in respect of staff of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; in how many cases performance was rated as unsatisfactory or below; how many staff left as a direct result of such a rating; and what percentage of full-time equivalent staff this represented. [313821]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions performance management framework covers a range of HR procedures including attendance, discipline and performance appraisals. The Department's policy stipulates that performance discussions should take place at least quarterly but we do not hold information centrally on how many actually take place.

The following table sets out the number of staff dismissed for unsatisfactory performance covering attendance, discipline and work performance. Information on the number of staff with an unsatisfactory year-end performance rating is only available from April 2007.

	Numbers of staff who have been dismissed for 'unsatisfactory performance' (April 2007 to March 2009)	*Numbers of staff with an 'unsatisfactory' year end performance rating (April 2007 to March 2009)*
Child Support Agency	160	1
Central Services	91	11
Jobcentre Plus	1353	20
Pensions Disability and Carers Service	192	14
Total Number	1,796	46
Total Percentage	1.6	0.04

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in her Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure her Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [320537]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not retained centrally. To obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Voluntary Work

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* schemes and *(b)* programmes her Department offers to its staff to enable them to undertake volunteering work; and if she will make a statement. [320937]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP offers the following schemes and programmes to its staff to enable them to undertake volunteer work:

(a) Schemes

Community 5000: Community 5000 is the "in work" volunteering scheme open to all DWP staff at all levels. It supports individuals and teams to give practical skills and time to voluntary and community organisations that support the needs of DWP's diverse customers.

It is a free choice for the individual and is usually one day of volunteering activity, treated as a day at work as regards hours of attendance and pay and conditions etc.

In the two years the scheme has been running over 10,000 days have been given in support of over 300 organisations including the Citizens Advice Bureau, The Salvation Army, Action for Blind People, Age Concern, Crisis and many more.

Feedback has indicated that attendance on the scheme has encouraged many staff to volunteer in their own time.

(b) Programmes

Paid leave: For public and community activities paid leave is available to staff as a right with an agreed entitlement, i.e:

	Annual entitlement
Activity	*Maximum number of days*
Member local authority	18
Mayor	24
Magistrate	18
School or college governor	4
Jury Service	[1]

[1] As required by the court.

Staff are also allowed paid leave to serve in a voluntary organisation that provides a service to the local community, such as the Lifeboat Service, Mountain Rescue and Special Constabulary.

Princes Trust

The DWP support individuals who wish to participate in the Princes Trust as part of their personal development. They are continually looking at how such programmes and other opportunities e.g. secondments to the voluntary sector etc. can be used as an alternative to traditional learning and development methods.

Employment and Support Allowance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how long on average her Department took to process a claim for employment and support allowance in *(a)* Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency, *(b)* the Highlands, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* England and Wales in each of the last 12 months. [320125]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not available.

Jobcentre Plus is introducing a target for employment and support allowance clearance times from April 2010 and official statistics which will be used to monitor progress will be published in May.

Evaluation of Access to Work

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether she plans to take forward the recommendations made in her Department's research report no. 621, Evaluation of Access to Work: Ministerial Government Departments. [310270]

Jonathan Shaw: The research report contained a number of recommendations to improve the delivery of support previously financed by Access to Work within ministerial Government Departments. Many of the problems identified, and recommendations suggested, were concerned specifically with the individual provision arrangements within Government Departments and are therefore for the individual departments to implement. These include improving the monitoring and review processes operated, potentially in line with those delivered by Access to Work.

The report does however identify support that the Department for Work and Pensions can continue to provide to ministerial Government Departments to help them improve their delivery of this process. We are committed to supporting these recommendations and will be working with ministerial Government Departments to communicate best practice and further advice and guidance in order to improve their delivery of this support to their disabled staff.

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether there are circumstances in which the award of industrial injury disablement benefit may result in a reduction in income for the recipient as a result of interaction with other benefits. [318947]

Jonathan Shaw: Receipt of industrial injuries disablement benefit should not result in an overall reduction in income.

However, it is taken into account when assessing entitlement to income-related benefits this is because industrial injuries disablement benefit is compensation paid for loss of faculty as a result of an industrial accident or disease and is not intended to meet specific additional costs arising from the disability.

For all the income-related benefits—income support; jobseeker's allowance (income based); income-related employment and support allowance; pension credit; housing benefit; and council tax benefit—industrial injuries disablement benefit is taken fully into account when determining entitlement.

In determining entitlement to incapacity benefit, contribution-based employment and support allowance and contribution-based jobseeker's allowance, industrial injuries disablement benefit is not taken into account; however, any unemployability supplement payable with industrial injuries disablement benefit is taken fully into account.

Industrial injuries disablement benefit is not taken into account in the award of disability living allowance or attendance allowance.

Redundancy: Public Sector

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* voluntary and *(b)* involuntary redundancy rates in the public sector were in each (i) region and (ii) industrial category in each year since 1997. [318686]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of the total number of redundancies are available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). However there is no available disaggregation between voluntary and involuntary redundancies or a regional breakdown.

The LFS provides information for whether employees work in the public or private sectors. However individuals recently made redundant are instead classified according to the industrial group of their previous job. The industrial group 'public administration, education and health' may act as a very broad approximation of the public sector. Although a large fraction of employees in and redundancies from the this industrial group are likely to be in the public sector, private sector firms also operate within this industry whilst there are also public sector employees in other sectors.

BIS estimates of redundancies from public administration, education and health and all other industries are provided in the third and fourth columns of Table 1 for the first quarter of each year since 1999, the earliest date available. These figures should only be treated as indicative as the LFS is a self classification survey completed by individuals. Some individuals are unlikely to identify exactly the industry in which they work.

The second column of Table 1 reports Office for National Statistics published figures for total economy-wide redundancy rates. These do not exactly match the other columns due to missing values in the industrial classification of redundancies.

Table 1: First quarter redundancy rates 1997-2009. Not seasonally adjusted

		Industrial breakdown	
	ONS total first quarter redundancy rates	*Public administration, education and health*	*All other industries*
1997	7.0	—	—
1998	7.4	—	—
1999	8.8	1.50	11.40
2000	7.8	0.97	10.32
2001	6.5	1.39	8.48
2002	8.4	1.24	11.11
2003	7.3	1.35	9.65
2004	5.9	0.89	7.97
2005	5.6	0.99	7.61
2006	5.9	1.20	8.06
2007	6.1	1.44	8.15
2008	4.7	1.37	6.21
2009	11.8	1.36	16.50

Source:

ONS Economic and Labour Market Statistics (column 2) and BIS analysis of Labour Force Survey (columns 3 and 4). The data is not seasonally adjusted although there are seasonal variations in the number of redundancies.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claimants of *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* severe disablement allowance have left the benefit for employment in each of the last five years. [318796]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 February 2010]:* The Department does not have the data highlighting the destinations of off-flows from incapacity benefits. One of the primary reasons for this is that not everyone leaving benefits tells the Department their destination. The Department has carried out research into other sources of information on destinations, but the results so far are not sufficiently complete for regular publication.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the primary work limiting condition was for claimants of *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance in the latest period for which information is available; [319023]

(2) what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of claimants of (i) incapacity benefit and (ii) employment and support allowance in each main disease group. [319174]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 26 February]:* To qualify for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work called the personal capability assessment. Therefore, the medical condition recorded on the claim form does not in itself confer entitlement to benefit. This means that the decision for a customer who has claimed incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance would be based on their ability to carry out a range of activities in the personal capability assessment. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation. Data by medical conditions is not yet available for employment and support allowance. The available information is in the table.

Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants by published diagnosis group Great Britain and abroad—August 2009

	Total	*Proportion of all diagnosis*
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	16,500	0.7
Neoplasms	31,130	1.4
Diseases of the blood and blood forming organs and certain diseases involving the immune mechanism	3,760	0.2
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	32,690	1.4
Mental and behavioural Disorders	989,610	43.0
Diseases of the nervous System	153,540	6.7
Diseases of the eye and adnexa	17,870	0.8
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	9,780	0.4
Diseases of the circulatory system	112,880	4.9
Diseases of the respiratory system	4,700	0.2
Diseases of the digestive system	33,830	1.5
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous system	13,490	0.6
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	392,520	17.1
Diseases of the genitourinary system	15,600	0.7
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	1,460	0.1
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	20	0.0
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	24,830	1.1
Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	262,380	11.4
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	110,000	4.8
Factors influencing health status and contact with health services	30,600	1.3

Notes:

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and proportions to one decimal place.

[2] Data published at http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Source:

Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 84WS, on exportability of disability benefits, what estimate she has made of the number of claimants who lost entitlement to *(a)* carer's allowance, *(b)* the disability living allowance higher care component and *(c)* attendance allowance when they moved to another European Economic Area country or to Switzerland between 8 March 2001 and 18 October 2007; and what estimate she has made of the total monetary value of such payments (i) since 18 October 2007 and (ii) in each of the next three years. [320159]

Jonathan Shaw: The European Court of Justice (ECJ) decided in October 2007 that the disability benefits (disability living allowance care component, attendance allowance and carer's allowance) are sickness benefits and may be paid to people who leave the UK to live elsewhere in the European Economic Area or Switzerland providing certain conditions are met. This includes a requirement that customers making a new claim have been in the UK for 26 weeks out of the past 52 weeks.

After careful consideration we have decided to take a different approach on cases where people lost entitlement to a disability benefit when they moved to another EEA state or Switzerland before 18 October 2007 (the date of the ECJ judgment) but no earlier than 8 March 2001.

We accept that these people will have been in the UK for 26 out of the previous 52 weeks when they left the UK. We therefore no longer require that they should satisfy this condition at the date they seek reinstatement, providing they continued to meet the other relevant domestic and EU law eligibility requirements throughout the period their claim was disallowed. Payment will be considered from 18 October 2007.

We do not have the information in the form requested. We currently hold data on 4,000 to 5,000 people who have moved to another EEA member state since 2002 and lost entitlement to a disability benefit. We estimate that the total monetary value of payments to these cases, from 18 October 2007 to the end of March 2010, could be between £30 million and £40 million. In 2010-11 the cost could be between £12 million and £15 million, reducing to between £10 and £13 million and £8 to £11 million in 2011-12 and 2012-13 respectively.

However, the data we hold may not be complete. We will monitor the numbers of people seeking payment of benefits they had earlier lost and will revise our estimates as necessary.

Social Security Benefits: Dundee

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Dundee, East constituency are in receipt of attendance allowance, and how much on average they receive in attendance allowance each week. [319567]

Jonathan Shaw: Attendance allowance provides an important non-contributory, non-income-related and tax free cash contribution towards the extra costs of severely disabled people. The Government are committed to providing real help to disabled people, particularly through the early stages of economic recovery. This is why the Chancellor announced in the December 2009 pre-Budget report that attendance allowance would be increased by 1.5 per cent.—bringing forward help when it is most needed. Without this commitment, the recent negative growth in the retail prices index would have meant that this benefit would not have increased in 2010.

The information requested is in the table.

Number of cases in payment and average weekly payment of attendance allowance in the Dundee, East constituency in August 2009

Attendance allowance	*Number/£*
Number of cases in payment	2,590
Average weekly amount paid (£)	61.11

Notes:
1. Number of cases in payment rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Average weekly amount paid is rounded to the nearest penny.
3. Total number of attendance allowance cases in payment excludes people with entitlement where payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Social Security Benefits: Na h-Eileanan an Iar

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of attendance allowance in Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average weekly payment was of that allowance in that constituency in that period. [319014]

Jonathan Shaw: Attendance allowance provides an important non-contributory, non-income-related and tax free cash contribution towards the extra costs of severely disabled people. The Government are committed to providing real help to disabled people, particularly through the early stages of economic recovery. This is why the Chancellor announced in the December 2009 pre-Budget report that attendance allowance would be increased by 1.5 per cent.—bringing forward help when it is most needed. Without this commitment, the recent negative growth in the retail prices index would have meant that this benefit would not have increased in 2010.

The information requested is in the table.

Number of cases in payment and average weekly payment of attendance allowance in the Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency in August 2009

Attendance allowance	*Number/£*
Number of cases in payment	1,150
Average weekly amount paid (£)	60.55

Notes:
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Average amounts are rounded to the nearest penny.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Social Security Benefits: Young People

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals aged under 25 years old commenced a claim for *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* work-related employment and support allowance and *(c)* support group employment in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available. [318668]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 23 February 2010]*: The available information is provided in the tables. Information on the number of new claims from those under 25 years old for employment and support allowance broken down into work-related employment group and support group is not available. To compile the data and quality assure them could only be done at disproportionate costs.

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance on-flows Great Britain and abroad

Quarter	*All ages*	*Under 25*
November 2008	112,430	20,630
February 2009	16,800	2,870
May 2009	14,980	2,250
Aug 2009	11,900	1,240

Notes:

1. On-flows in the quarter is the total number of spells on incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance that commenced within the quarter.

A person may flow on and then off the benefit more than once during the quarter. Does not include approximately eight per cent of short duration on-flows every quarter.

2. From 6 April 2001 no new claims for severe disablement benefit were accepted.

3. Incapacity benefit generally applies to people of working age although a small number of claimants are over state pension age.

4. Figures rounded to the nearest ten.

5. Some additional disclosure controls have been applied.

Source:

Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Employment and support allowance on-flows Great Britain and abroad

Quarter	*All ages*	*Under 25*
November 2008	54,150	10,150
February 2009	141,320	24,960
May 2009	160,740	28,310
August 2009	164,910	31,150

Notes:

1. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.

2. Data relating to employment and support allowance complies with national statistics standard however this is a new benefit using a new data source which may not have reached a steady state in terms of operational processing and retrospection.

3. Figures rounded to the nearest ten.

4. Some additional disclosure controls have been applied.

Source:

Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Unemployment Benefits

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance aged under 25 years old there were in (i) each year since 1997 and (ii) each of the last four quarters for which figures are available. [316976]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is in the following tables. These figures reflect the numbers of claimants of incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance and employment and support allowance aged under 25 who have claimed an incapacity benefit.

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants under 25 years August 1997 to August 2009

	Claimants under 25 years
August 1997	161,900
August 1998	154,600
August 1999	164,190
August 2000	168,810
August 2001	172,460
August 2002	173,520
August 2003	176,540
August 2004	179,020
August 2005	173,140
August 2006	167,750
August 2007	168,460
August 2008	164,320
November 2008	156,540
February 2009	135,180
May 2009	120,990
August 2009	110,130

Notes:

1. August 1999 onwards data rounded to nearest 10.

2. Data for August 1997 to August 1998 has been derived by applying 5 per cent proportions to 100 per cent Longitudinal Study totals and rounded to the nearest hundred.

3. Severe disablement allowance replaced by incapacity benefit (youth) provisions from April 2001.

4. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit for new claims from October 2008.

5. Figures for the final four quarters do not include employment and support allowance

Sources:

August 1997-August 1998: DWP Longitudinal Study 5 per cent. data

August 1999 onwards: DWP Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

Employment and support claimants under 25 years - November 2008 to August 2009

	Claimants under 25 years
November 2008	9,770
February 2009	29,470
May 2009	46,200
August 2009 (provisional)	59,740

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit for new claims from October 2008.

Source:

DWP Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the quarterly off-flows from employment and support allowance have been since its inception, broken down by reason for termination. [317943]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not available.

Unemployment Benefits: Medical Examinations

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department has paid to health-care companies for conducting capability assessments in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Scotland since 27 October 2008. [317757]

Jonathan Shaw: The cost of conducting the medical assessment process associated with employment and support allowance is £51.07 million covering the period from 27 October 2008 up to 22 February 2010. This covers the full costs of the medical assessments including work-focused health-related assessments, gathering information from customers and health care professionals, necessary investments in information technology and infrastructure and set-up costs.

The contract is provided on a national basis. A separate cost of providing medical services for Scotland is not available.

Work Capability Assessment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether employees of Atos Medical Ltd contracted to carry out work capability assessments are required to have diagnostic experience relating to *(a)* illnesses with complex and varied symptoms and *(b)* mental health. [318178]

Jonathan Shaw: Atos Healthcare doctors and nurses are specifically trained to provide decision making authorities with independent, accurate and authoritative advice and reports on the effects of disability.

The DWP chief medical adviser approves health care professionals to carry out assessments. Approval is dependent on strict recruitment criteria, completion of a course of training in disability assessment medicine approved by the chief medical adviser and evidence of satisfactory performance.

Atos Healthcare doctors must be fully registered with the General Medical Council without current or previous restrictions, conditions or warnings and hold a licence to practice from the date the GMC issues licences. In addition they must have at least three years post full registration (GMC or EEA—European Economic Area equivalent) experience as a minimum. Alternatively for non EU graduates three years post full registration experience in the doctors native country is required. In individual cases, solely at the discretion of the CMA, the requirements that no conditions or warnings be attached to registration and that the doctor must have a minimum of three years post-registration experience, may be waived.

Atos nurses must be fully registered (level 1) registered general nurses without current or previous restrictions or cautions with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. In addition they must have at least three years post full-registration experience. In individual cases, solely at the discretion of the CMA, the requirements that no cautions be attached to registration and that the nurse must have a minimum of three years post-registration experience, may be waived.

JUSTICE

Fraud: Convictions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 925W, on crime convictions, how many of the convictions in Table 6 placed in the Library, relating to fraud and forgery in Greater London and England and Wales, were of offenders aged *(a)* 10 or 11, *(b)* from 12 to 14, *(c)* from 15 to 17, *(d)* from 18 to 20 and *(e)* 21 years old and more. [321303]

Claire Ward: The available information from 1997 to 2008 (latest available) is given in the following tables.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for fraud and forgery by age group in Greater London and England and Wales, from 1997 to 2008[1] [2]

Greater London[3]

Number of offenders

Age group	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
10 to 11	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	5	1
12 to 14	13	10	16	13	7	13	8	13	6	12	25	6
15 to 17	110	115	153	144	211	194	161	130	115	75	94	93
18 to 20	336	367	425	453	452	463	414	399	359	262	272	289
21 and over	2,686	3,007	2,789	2,728	2,417	2,838	3,122	3,233	3,220	3,331	4,297	4,107
Total	3,145	3,499	3,384	3,338	3,087	3,509	3,705	3,775	3,700	3,680	4,693	4,496

England and Wales

Number of offenders

Age group	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008[4]
10 to 11	—	—	6	3	2	6	1	1	4	2	6	3
12 to 14	82	91	86	92	78	98	78	83	70	62	87	47
15 to 17	724	872	988	922	933	842	732	678	614	537	583	469
18 to 20	2,171	2,495	2,866	2,638	2,584	2,331	2,146	1,977	1,785	1,443	1,435	1,409
21 and over	14,030	16,299	16,360	15,573	14,686	14,867	15,064	15,405	15,981	16,145	17,824	17,895
Total	17,007	19,757	20,306	19,228	18,283	18,144	18,021	18,144	18,454	18,190	19,935	19,823

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes Metropolitan and City of London police force areas.

[4] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Illegal Immigrants

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been *(a)* convicted of and *(b)* received the maximum available prison sentence or fine for (i) entering the UK in breach of a deportation order or without leave, (ii) remaining in the UK after leave to enter or remain had expired, (iii) assaulting an immigration officer and (iv) trafficking people for exploitation in each year since 1998. [321258]

Claire Ward: The requested information is provided in the following table. The total number sentenced has been supplied in lieu of the number convicted; the numbers convicted and sentenced in a year may not match due to lags in time between conviction and sentencing.

Total persons given a maximum fine and maximum sentence, 1998 to 2008

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Non-citizen entering UK in breach of a deportation order[1]											
Persons sentenced to maximum fine (£5,000)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Persons sentenced to maximum custodial sentence (6 months)	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
Total sentenced	4	5	2	1	6	6	3	5	4	7	11
Non citizen entering UK without leave[1]											
Persons sentenced to maximum fine (£5,000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Persons sentenced to maximum custodial sentence (6 months)	0	0	0	0	11	6	6	9	8	2	2
Total sentenced	7	15	14	23	36	32	18	24	38	8	11
Non citizen having only a limited leave remaining in UK beyond the time limit[1]											
Persons sentenced to maximum fine (£5,000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Persons sentenced to maximum custodial sentence (6 months)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	1	1
Total sentenced	0	5	1	4	3	5	13	5	5	3	4
Non citizen failing to observe conditions of leave[1]											
Persons sentenced to maximum fine (£5,000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Persons sentenced to maximum custodial sentence (6 months)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total sentenced	5	5	2	8	1	2	1	1	7	0	1
Non citizen who enters UK as a member of a crew of a ship or aircraft and who is required to leave on the ship or aircraft remains in the UK beyond the time allowed[1]											
Persons sentenced to maximum fine (£5,000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Persons sentenced to maximum custodial sentence (6 months)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0
Total sentenced	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	4

Total persons given a maximum fine and maximum sentence, 1998 to 2008

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Non citizen failing to comply with requirements to report to a Medical Officer or to submit to a test or examination required by such an officer[1]											
Persons sentenced to maximum fine (£5,000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Persons sentenced to maximum custodial sentence (6 months)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total sentenced	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assaulting a designated immigration officer exercising Section 2 detention powers[2]											
Persons sentenced to maximum fine (£5,000)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0
Persons sentenced to maximum custodial sentence (6 months)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0
Total sentenced	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0
Assaulting an immigration officer[2]											
Persons sentenced to maximum fine (£5,000)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0
Persons sentenced to maximum custodial sentence (6 months)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0
Total sentenced	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0
Trafficking into the UK for sexual exploitation[3,5]											
Persons sentenced to maximum custodial sentence (14 years)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indeterminate sentences	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	2	0
Total sentenced	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	9	6	9	11
Trafficking within the UK for sexual exploitation[3,5]											
Persons sentenced to maximum custodial sentence (14 years)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indeterminate sentences	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total sentenced	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	3	9	5	13
Trafficking out of the UK for sexual exploitation[3,5]											
Persons sentenced to maximum custodial sentence (14 years)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indeterminate sentences	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total sentenced	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	1	0
Trafficking people into the UK for the purpose of exploitation[4,5]											
Persons sentenced to maximum custodial sentence (14 years)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0
Indeterminate sentences	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0
Total sentenced	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	2	3	0	0

Total persons given a maximum fine and maximum sentence, 1998 to 2008

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Trafficking people within the UK for the purpose of exploitation[4, 5]											
Persons sentenced to maximum custodial sentence (14 years)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0
Indeterminate sentences	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0
Total convicted	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	2	0	0
Trafficking people out of the UK[4, 5]											
Persons sentenced to maximum custodial sentence (14 years)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0
Indeterminate sentences	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0
Total sentenced	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	1	8	0

n/a = Not applicable

[1] Offences under Immigration Act 1971

[2] Offences under UK Borders Act 2007

[3] Offences under Sexual Offences Act 2003

[4] Offences under Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004

[5] The figures have been drawn from the courts proceedings database and as such may differ from any figures supplied by the UK human trafficking centre which are drawn from the Police National Computer

Notes:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

2. These data have been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Legal Aid

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reason his Department's review into the Graduated Fees Scheme has not been conducted on the originally proposed timetable. [320745]

Claire Ward: In 2005 the Government gave a commitment to review specific aspects of the Advocate's Graduated Fee Scheme (AGFS), including payments for 'cracked' trials and guilty pleas. However, this commitment was overtaken by Lord Carter's Review of Legal Aid Procurement, published in 2006. This led to a wide-ranging revision of the existing AGFS framework, implemented in April 2007. In light of these recent changes, the Government do not currently intend to conduct any further review of the structure of the AGFS, although they have recently consulted on changes to the rates payable under the AGFS.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were eligible for legal aid as a result of their assets being frozen in each of the last five years. [320746]

Claire Ward: When assessing financial eligibility, the Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not take into account assets frozen under a restraint order. Where someone is subject to restraint procedures a living allowance is usually made available, and this is taken into account in assessing their financial eligibility. The LSC's management information systems do not hold information on the numbers of people subject to restraint proceedings, or on the living allowances each individual has been allowed by the court, so figures for the number of people who are in principle eligible for legal aid as a result of restraint proceedings are not available. Some information may be held on individuals who have actually applied for legal aid, but this is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many staff were employed in *(a)* Prison Service area offices and *(b)* regional offender management offices on 1 January 2008; [320855]

(2) how many persons were employed by each director of offender management within the National Offender Management Service on the most recent date for which figures are available; [320856]

(3) how many persons were employed in *(a)* the Head Office and *(b)* each regional office of the National Offender Management Service on 31 December of each year since 2004. [320858]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of staff employed in Regional Offender Management Offices in January 2008 is not available. At that time the staff reported to the Home Office but the records are no longer available and would require a substantial reactivation exercise that would entail disproportionate cost, to obtain.

The closest available data relates to October 2008, when there were 451 staff in Prison Service area offices and 119 staff in Regional Offender Management offices.

The number of staff employed within each office is provided in the following table:

Staff employed within Director of Offender Management Offices, 31 December 2009

Region	Staff employed	Staff declared surplus[1]	Vacancies
East Midlands	53	2	8
East of England	50	1	14
London	32	6	13
North East	40	5	2
North West	81	19	12
South East	98	8	23
South West	31	8	14
Wales	26	0	12
West Midlands	38	6	13
Yorkshire and Humberside	35	6	3
Total	483	61	114

[1] Staff declared surplus are also included in the 'Staff employed' column.

The process of change in the NOMS organisations in the nine English regions and Wales in 2009, covered 576 jobs and the new structure, which is now in place, has reduced this number by 180 to 396.

The information for the national headquarters does not include staff reporting through the NOMS Shared Service Centre or area service teams who are based in prisons but organised on a regional basis.

Regional and National Headquarters 31 December 2004 to 2009

	Region	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Area/Regional Office	East Midlands	37	54	61	56	62	53
	East of England	34	44	47	44	56	50
	London	25	28	30	28	37	32
	North East	20	28	38	38	41	40
	North West	126	182	210	205	80	81
	South East	125	143	127	116	121	98
	South west	32	36	34	26	25	31
	Wales	13	16	19	18	27	26
	West Midlands	49	48	54	42	34	38
	Yorkshire and Humberside	39	48	55	29	35	35
Area/Regional Office Total		501	627	675	602	518	483
National Headquarters[1]		1906	1351	1398	1297	2207	2188

[1] In 2005 a large number of staff transferred to the original NOMS headquarters, which was part of the core Home Office. The staff transferred back in 2008 when NOMS HQ was formed. These staff are not included in the table for die period when they were part of the core Home Office.

Prison Accommodation: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department takes in to account the state pension costs of retired staff when calculating the cost of a prison place in England and Wales. [320857]

Maria Eagle: The annual cost per prison place is based on expenditure met by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) during the year. It does not include the pension cost of staff who have already retired, not the cost of the state retirement pension.

The cost includes the expected cost of pension benefits accrued by staff employed during the year and also the additional cost arising from any staff who leave as part of an early retirement programme during the year.

Present and past employees of NOMS receive pension benefits covered by the provisions of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) which is unfunded. Liability for payment of future benefits to retired staff is a charge to the PCSPS.

Prisons: Mobile Phones

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many illicit mobile telephones with or without SIM cards detected in prisons in England and Wales were forwarded to the National Dog Technology Supply Group in the latest period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the number of such telephones detected and not forwarded. [320859]

Maria Eagle: The Government are committed to reducing the number of mobile phones in prisons. We have already strengthened the law through the Offender Management Act 2007, which made it an offence with a penalty of up to two years' imprisonment to bring a mobile phone or component into a prison. We are also taking forward legislation through the Crime and Security Bill to criminalise the possession of devices, including mobile telephones within a prison without authorisation.

Prisons in England and Wales are instructed to send mobile phones and SIM cards found to a central unit and it is from this unit's records that this answer is based. The following table shows the total number of mobile phones and SIM cards that have been interrogated over the last 12 months.

The figures contained in the table have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing data, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. These data are not subject to audit.

The figures understate the actual number of finds, because they do not include items retained by the police for evidential purposes and phones not submitted for other reasons. It is not always appropriate to send phones to the central unit and some phones sent are not interrogated. These have not been included in these figures. NOMS is putting in place new procedures to improve the accuracy of these statistics.

Tackling mobile phones in prison presents substantial and increasing technological challenges, and while the numbers of phones found clearly indicates the scale of the challenge, it is also a reflection of prisons' increasing success in finding them and better reporting. The following table shows the number of mobile phones and SIM cards that have been received from each of the prisons over the last 12 months.

Mobile phones and SIM cards submitted to central unit, March 2009 to February 2010

	Mobile	*SIM*
2009		
March	304	323
Apr	363	357
May	353	377
June	407	396
July	376	425
August	476	393
September	355	345
October	386	373
November	399	337
December	350	325
2010		
January	430	423
February	459	479
Total	4658	4553

Note:
Each mobile phone and SIM card is counted as a separate item.

Youth Custody: Manpower

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* governors, *(b)* officers and *(c)* other staff in the youth secure estate are of each ethnic group. [321305]

Maria Eagle: Information on the ethnic group of staff in the youth secure estate is contained in the following table. The information refers to staff directly employed by the National Offender Management Service and staff at Ashfield and Parc young offender institutions (YOI), which are operated by private contractors. Where a YOI is not entirely dedicated to holding young people (15 to 17-year-olds) it is not possible to disaggregate the staffing and the entire staffing of the YOI has been included in the answer. Obtaining information on non-employed staff engaged in the young people's estate is not possible without incurring disproportionate cost.

Ethnicity of staff employed within young people's estate[1]

Ethnic group	*Operational managers*[2]	*Officers*[3]	*Other staff*	*Total*[4]
Asian	0	44	57	102
Black	4	45	41	98
Mixed	1	35	19	55
Other ethnic group	3	16	10	30
White	121	2,172	1,637	4,356
Not declared	2	181	138	323
Total	131	2,493	1,902	4,964

Ethnicity of staff employed within young people's estate[1]

Ethnic group	*Operational managers*[2]	*Officers*[3]	*Other staff*	*Total*[4]
Percentage black and minority ethnic[5]	6.2	6.1	7.2	6.1

[1] The establishments included in the totals are: Ashfield, Castington, Cookham Wood, Feltham, Hindley, Huntercombe, Parc, Stoke Heath, Warren Hill, Werrington, Wetherby, Eastwood Park, Downview, New Hall, Foston Hall.
[2] Governors are now known as operational managers.
[3] Includes prison officers, senior officers and principal officers and prison custody officers in contracted establishments.
[4] Information for Ashfield could not be broken down by grade and so is included only in the total column. Hence the columns do not sum to the total.
[5] Percentage recorded as black and minority ethnic of total with known ethnicity.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Colombia: Human Rights

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outcome was of his Department's discussions with the Colombian Government on the situation of members of the Nukak tribe camped near San Jose; and if he will make a statement. [320830]

Chris Bryant: We have not had any discussions with the Colombian Government about the Nukak Maku tribe.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information technology projects initiated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were cancelled prior to completion in the last 12 months; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [320426]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not cancelled any significant information technology projects during the past five years. To provide more detailed information on small individual projects, including from across our network of posts, would incur disproportionate cost.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not maintain centrally details of information technology projects for its agencies. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 214W, on departmental public expenditure, whether he expects there to be a shortfall between the estimated savings to be made by his Department and its agencies in 2010-11 and the estimated loss to his Department's budget for that year arising from exchange rate movements. [320808]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 5 March 2010]*: I am confident that on the basis of the measures my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced in his written statement to the House of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 53WS, including those additional elements of streamlining and cost-saving mentioned there which have yet to be finalised, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will be able to continue to deliver a world-class and comprehensive diplomatic service for the UK within its departmental expenditure limit.

EU Countries: Overseas Workers

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of UK engineering construction workers working under contract in other EU member states in each of the last five years. [320923]

Chris Bryant: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Israel: Courts Martial

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the number of Palestinian children being held by the Israeli authorities and facing trial in a military court. [320777]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: According to Defence for Children International, as of January 2010, there are currently 318 Palestinian children in Israeli detention.

The UK continues to make its position clear to both the Israelis and the Palestinians on a wide range of human rights issues. This includes not only social and economic rights but also the security and treatment of detainees, including juveniles.

Kazakhstan: Politics and Government

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to monitor the progress of the Government of Kazakhstan in implementing the commitments to reform made prior to its chairmanship of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe in 2010. [320860]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I have raised this issue with the Kazakhstan Foreign Minister in recent weeks. Our embassy in Astana, working closely with EU and other like-minded missions, closely evaluates political developments in Kazakhstan. Our embassy has also supported a project run by Freedom House and the Kazakhstan Coalition of non-governmental organisations to monitor independently Kazakhstan's performance against its Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) commitments, including in respect of elections, political parties, media, local self-governance, and freedoms of assembly and conscience. During the project, the Coalition provided regular briefings to others in the international community to allow wider monitoring. The commitments made by Kazakhstan prior to the chairmanship were in line with the international standards to which it had already signed up as a partner state of the OSCE. These commitments will continue to be monitored after Kazakhstan's year as chair comes to an end.

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the progress of the Government of Kazakhstan in implementing the commitments to reform it made prior to its chairmanship of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe in 2010. [320861]

Chris Bryant: Kazakhstan has taken some limited steps forward, but there have been developments, for example in limiting media freedom, that have caused concern. We have stressed to the Kazakhs the need to live up to the obligations that relate to both its membership and chairmanship of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). On 14 January 2010, President Nazarbayev pledged to "pursue further political liberalisation". This was underlined by Kazakh Foreign Minister Saudabayev when he told my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary in January that Kazakhstan would remain committed to the founding principles of the OSCE. We look forward to that being the case. We will continue to support Kazakhstan's efforts towards meeting their OSCE commitments, and the challenges they face as chair.

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the progress of the Government of Kazakhstan to date on the implementation of its pledge to introduce greater democracy and transparency in respect of *(a)* media freedom, *(b)* religious freedom, *(c)* internet law, *(d)* human rights and *(e)* legislation; and if he will make a statement. [320862]

Chris Bryant: The Kazakhs have made some progress in the field of human rights, but further improvements are needed, as they themselves have recognised. Recent positive reforms include December 2009 legislation on domestic violence and gender equality and a reduction in the number of crimes carrying the death penalty. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are active and played a key role in developing Kazakhstan's National Human Rights Action Plan last year (the formation of which was supported by the UK). This Action Plan includes a comprehensive set of recommendations across the human rights spectrum, many with specific deadlines. But concerns remain, including in respect of arbitrary arrest and detention, the right to a fair trial and freedoms of expression, assembly and of the media, and in specific cases such as Evgeny Zhovtis and Ramazan Yesergepov. There is also scope for improvements in the legislation on elections, political parties and local government enacted in February 2009.

February 2009 legislation introduced some improvements with regard to the media situation in Kazakhstan, including abolition of the registration requirement for television and radio outlets. However, libel remains a criminal offence in Kazakhstan and related laws are used against opposition media. In December 2009, a new privacy law was passed, which media NGOs state will place further constraints on investigative journalism.

We are pleased that a restrictive law on Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organisations was rejected by Kazakhstan's Constitutional Council last year. We are concerned however that non-traditional religious groups including Jehovah's Witnesses, evangelical Christians and the International Society for Krishna Consciousness have experienced difficulties.

The internet law, introduced in July 2009, has been strongly criticised both by the EU and by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Representative for Freedom of the Media, Miklos Haraszti, as not being in line with international standards or OSCE commitments. We most recently encouraged the Kazakhs to bring this law into line with international standards during a meeting in London with Kazakhstan's Deputy Foreign Minister on 29 January 2010.

Kazakhstan continues to participate in the human rights dialogues established under the EU's Central Asia Strategy, which supports good governance, the rule of law and human rights and to which the UK contributes views. We encouraged Kazakhstan to co-operate closely with the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review earlier this year and will continue to emphasise the importance of a thorough response to the recommendations raised. The UK and our international partners will continue to raise issues of concern with the Kazakh authorities and urge them to press ahead with reforms, many of which they themselves have identified as necessary.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter of 19 January 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on the Parliamentary delegation to Gaza. [319562]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office did not receive my right hon. Friend's letter until 26 February 2010. We will reply to it as soon as possible.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings he has had with representatives of the biofuels industry on the production of biofuels from used cooking oils since October 2009. [320853]

Joan Ruddock: DECC officials have had meetings with the following industry bodies where used cooking oil derived transport biofuels or bioliquids for the generation of heat and power were discussed: Four Rivers BioEnergy Inc.; North East of England Process Industry Cluster; Oil Firing Technical Association; Renewable Energy Association; and UK Sustainable Biofuels Association. Officials also attend the Department for Transport's monthly Renewable Energy Directive Stakeholder Advisory Group meetings with industry representatives where used cooking oil derived fuel is occasionally discussed.

Carbon Sequestration

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to announce the winner of the first carbon capture and storage demonstration scheme competition. [320316]

Joan Ruddock: The carbon capture and storage demonstration procurement is continuing in line with our plans. The next stage of the competition is to announce which bidders will be taken through to the front end engineering and design (FEED) phase. We expect to make an announcement on this shortly.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* laptops, *(b)* desktop computers, *(c)* computer discs, *(d)* printers and *(e)* memory sticks have been (i) lost by and (ii) stolen from his Department since its creation. [321328]

Joan Ruddock: The following items have been reported as lost or stolen from the Department since its creation:

	Number	
	Lost	*Stolen*
Laptops	1	1
Desktops	0	0
Computer discs	0	0
Printers	0	0
Memory sticks	[1]—	[1]—

[1] We do not hold this information centrally.

Both laptops had full disc encryption installed to protect DECC information.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information technology projects initiated by his Department were cancelled prior to completion in the last 12 months; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [320434]

Joan Ruddock: No information technology projects initiated by DECC have been cancelled prior to completion in the last 12 months.

Departmental Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [320416]

Joan Ruddock: We have no central record of any expenditure in the last 12 months on foreign language training.

Departmental Public Relations

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on news and public relations in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [311569]

Joan Ruddock: The cost of all DECC communications staff in 2008-09 (including press officers) was £512,000, but note that this relates to the period from October

2008, as prior to this costs were divided between BIS and DEFRA (the Departments from which DECC's original teams were drawn), for which disaggregated figures for DECC's predecessor teams are not available. Costs from April 2009 to January 2010 (the latest date available) were £1,530,000.

Between September 2008 and March 2009 DECC spent approximately £119,000 through public relations agencies on COFs rosters. In 2009-10, DECC plans to spend a total of approximately £90,000 on public relations. These figures include all PR expenditure incurred by the Department on the Act On CO_2 campaign, including media relations activity and PR for roadshows.

For details of campaign advertising media costs in 2008-09 and 2009-10 I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave on 8 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 728W, to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps).

Electricity

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's latest estimate is of the cost of electricity in pence per kWh provided by *(a)* coal combustion plants, *(b)* pulverised fuel steam plants, *(c)* open-cycle gas turbines, *(d)* gas combustion plants, *(e)* nuclear fission plants, *(f)* biomass combustion plants, *(g)* offshore wind turbines, *(h)* onshore wind turbines and *(i)* wave and marine (hydroelectricity) plants; and if he will make a statement. [321340]

Mr. Kidney: Work is ongoing to update the Department of Energy and Climate Change's cost assumptions for different forms of generation.

The Government have carried out analysis on generation costs in recent years to inform policy decisions. Some of these estimates were published as part of the Energy Review (2006):

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file32014.pdf

The analysis underpinning Renewable Energy Strategy, published in July 2009, used assumptions on the generating costs of different renewable electricity generation technologies, full details of which are set out in Element (2009) and Redpoint/Trilemma (2009), which are available on the DECC website.

Table 1: Levelised cost estimates for renewable generation plant

Technology	Levelised cost (£/MWh)
Wind generation plant	
Onshore wind	74-103
Offshore wind	112-131
Biomass plant	
Biomass	114-146
Wave and tidal stream	
Wave	240
Tidal stream	191

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) has published estimated levelised costs (£/MWh, in 2008 prices) associated with 1 MWh of electricity generated, for their December 2008 report:

http://www.theccc.org.uk/pdf/TSO-ClimateChange.pdf

Their analysis for non-renewable plant is set out in table 2 and include construction, operation and maintenance costs and where applicable the cost of carbon allowances (EU ETS). Moreover, for nuclear, they also include the costs of decommissioning and waste.

Table 2: Levelised cost estimates for non-renewable generation plant

Technology	Levelised cost (£/MWh)
Coal-fired plant	
Coal (pulverised fuel)—central fuel	54
Gas-fired plant	
CCGT—central fuel	53
Nuclear plant	
Nuclear	51

It should be noted that the estimates of levelised costs for different types of electricity generation are highly sensitive to the assumptions used for capital costs, fuel and EU ETS allowance prices, operating costs, load factor, and other drivers. In reality, there are large uncertainties and ranges around these figures.

Electricity Generation

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 2 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 818-19W, on electricity generation: costs, if he will include in the estimated levelised costs associated with 1MW of electricity generated the level of subsidy provided for each different generating technology. [321403]

Mr. Kidney: Onshore wind receives 1 Renewables Obligation Certificate (ROC) per MWh and offshore wind receives 1.5 ROCs per MWh.

The predicted nominal value of a ROC in 2010 is estimated to be worth £40.55, dropping to £39.34 in 2015 (based on 2008-09 figures). It should, however, be noted that only about 80 per cent. of this value is likely to be passed to the generators through Power Purchase Agreements.

Onshore and offshore wind will also receive a Levy Exemption Certificate worth £4.70 for each MWh of electricity they generate (based on 2009-10 figures).

Energy Supply

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what methodology his Department uses to calculate the level of expected energy unserved. [320308]

Mr. Kidney: The Government published a paper setting out the methodology for expected energy unserved as part of the Energy Markets Outlook Report in October 2007. This is available on the BIS website at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file41831.pdf

Energy: Prices

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what guidance his Department provides to energy customers switching suppliers for them to avoid tariffs that become more expensive during the changeover period. [320815]

Mr. Kidney: Ofgem is responsible for the regulation of gas and electricity supply, including the rules governing switching supplier. Customers switching supplier may cancel the agreement within seven working days after receiving the confirmation letter from the new supplier, or seven days after signing a contract face to face with a sales agent.

Customers may also exercise their right to transfer supply to a different tariff or supplier without having to pay the increased charges providing they inform their new supplier within 20 working days of receiving the notification of a price change, and then start the switching process within a further 15 working days. Suppliers must include a reminder of these rights in the price notifications sent to customers.

Fossil Fuels: Imports

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* gross and *(b)* net quantity of (i) coal, (ii) oil and (iii) gas imported into the UK was in each of the last five years. [320323]

Mr. Kidney: The amounts of coal, oil and gas imported and exported by the UK for each year between 2004 and 2008 are shown in the following tables.

Coal

Thousand tonnes

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Imports	36,153	43,968	50,529	43,365	43,875
Exports	622	536	443	544	599
Net imports	35,531	43,432	50,086	42,821	43,276

Primary oil

Thousand tonnes

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Imports	62,517	58,885	59,443	57,357	60,074
Exports	64,504	54,099	50,195	50,999	48,410
Net imports	-1,987	4,786	9,248	6,358	11,664

Petroleum products

Thousand tonnes

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Imports	18,545	22,512	26,828	25,093	23,919
Exports	30,495	29,722	29,009	30,017	28,811
Net imports	-11,950	-7,210	-2,181	-4,921	-4,892

Gas

GigaWatt hours

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Imports	133,033	173,328	244,029	338,026	407,054
Exports	114,112	96,181	120,591	123,158	122,670
Net imports	18,921	77,147	123,438	214,868	284,384

Fossil Fuels: Russia

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* gross and *(b)* net quantity of (i) coal, (ii) oil and (iii) gas imported from Russia was in each of the last five years. [320325]

Mr. Kidney: The amounts of coal, oil and gas imported from and exported to Russia by the UK for each year between 2004 and 2008 are shown in the following table.

Thousand tonnes

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Coal					
Imports	9,932	17,521	22,285	20,106	21,102
Exports	0	0	0	0	0
Net imports	9,932	17,521	22,285	20,106	21,102
Primary oil					
Imports	9,199	5,649	10,344	8,641	8,308
Exports	0	0	0	0	0
Net imports	9,199	5,649	10,344	8,641	8,308
Petroleum products					
Imports	1,810	1,190	1,186	1,282	1,410
Exports	50	0	0	4	0
Net imports	1,760	1,190	1,186	1,278	1,410

Any UK gas sourced from Russia is negligible.

Fuel Poverty

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* England and *(b)* the UK who are in fuel poverty in 2010. [320321]

Mr. Kidney: We will be producing and publishing projections for England in 2010 later this year.

Housing: Insulation

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many houses have been insulated in Bolton under Government schemes in each of the last five years. [321189]

Mr. Kidney: The three principal Government schemes to encourage take-up of energy efficiency measures in Great Britain are Warm Front, the Decent Homes programme, and the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT). Table A shows the number of homes in Bolton to be insulated under Warm Front since the scheme began in 2000.

Local authority and housing association homes are assisted through the Government-funded Decent Homes programme, as well as councils' own capital resources. Table B shows the capital investment allocated by Government to Bolton council for their housing stock since 2001 through Decent Homes.

CERT is an obligation on energy suppliers to achieve reductions in the level of CO_2 emitted by the domestic sector. It and its predecessor schemes have delivered some 7.5 million key insulation measures to homes in Great Britain since 2002. Energy suppliers are not currently required to report at local authority level where they have installed measures. The Department is currently finalising agreements with the suppliers and the Energy Saving Trust which will enable the reporting of the number of CERT measures professionally installed to a local authority level. It will also allow local authorities to sign agreements with the Energy Saving Trust to see energy efficiency delivery in their local areas.

Table A: Number of houses in Bolton that have been insulated through the Warm Front Scheme in the last five years

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]
Cavity Wall Insulation	212	568	500	412	249
Draught proofing	162	485	492	293	189
Loft Insulation	268	621	632	525	323
Total	642	1674	1624	1230	761

[1] Up to 28 February 2010.

Source:

EAGA 2010

Table B: Number of LA dwellings that received insulation, and associated expenditure, Bolton 2005-09

	Dwellings	*Expenditure (£000)*
2005	1,276	299
2006	102	24
2007	2,378	559
2008	1,812	482
2009	89	24

Source:

Annual returns to Communities and Local Government

Insulation

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made a recent estimate of the number and proportion of homes with *(a)* no, *(b)* less than 50 mm of, *(c)* between 50 and 99 mm of, *(d)* between 100 and 149 mm of, *(e)* between 150 and 199 mm of and *(f)* 200 mm or more of loft insulation. [320318]

Joan Ruddock: The most recent assessment of loft insulation in homes was undertaken for the English Housing Survey in 2008. The relevant data from that survey are summarized in the following table:

Insulation status	*No insulation*	*Less than 50mm*	*50 up to 99mm*	*100 up to 149mm*	*150 up to 199mm*	*200mm or more*
Thousands of dwellings	670	532	4,179	6,913	2,759	4,1685
Percentage of dwellings	3.0	2.4	18.8	31.1	12.4	21.1

Insulation: Government Assistance

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many homes have had insulation improvements funded by his Department since 11 September 2008. [320306]

Joan Ruddock: The Warm Front scheme provides loft and cavity wall insulation and draught proofing for vulnerable households. The scheme records the measures delivered. Some homes will have received more than one insulation measure. The following table shows the number of insulation measures delivered by the scheme between 11 September 2008 and 28 February 2010.

Total insulation installed—11 September 2008 to 28 February 2010

Insulation measure	*Number installed*
Cavity Wall Insulation	28,209
Draught proofing	33,776
Loft Insulation	47,230
Total	109,215

Note:

A proportion of these measures were funded by contributions from energy suppliers as part of the CERT programme.

Joint Research Centre

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Office for Civil Nuclear Security will provide (i) personnel and (ii) resources to the Euratom/Joint Research Centre Research Laboratory in Karlsruhe. [321123]

Mr. Kidney: The Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Office for Civil Nuclear Security do not, and have no plans to, provide personnel or resources to the Joint Research Centre (JRC) laboratory in Karlsruhe.

The Institute for Transuranium Elements (JRC-ITU) in Karlsruhe is one of seven institutes of the JRC that functions as a reference centre of science and technology for the European Union. Funding for the JRC-ITU is provided by the European Commission (EC). The EC has allocated €517 million for the nuclear activities of the JRC under Euratom Framework Programme 7.

Natural Gas

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what the *(a)* lowest and *(b)* highest daily volume of UK continental shelf natural gas production has been since 1 September 2008; [320309]

(2) what the *(a)* lowest and *(b)* highest monthly volume of UK continental shelf natural gas production has been since 1 September 2008. [320310]

Mr. Kidney: In the period 1 September 2008 to 31 December 2009 (the latest month for which data are available), the *(a)* lowest monthly volume of UK continental shelf gross gas production was 3.4 billion cubic metres in August 2009, and *(b)* the highest was 6.8 billion cubic metres in January 2009.

The Department for Energy and Climate change collects monthly data from the gas operators and it is not, therefore, possible to identify the lowest and highest daily volumes of gas production.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the gas balancing alert trigger level was for each day between 1 and 19 January 2010. [320322]

Mr. Kidney: The gas balancing alert trigger levels are set by National Grid and are published on the National Grid website, under notices, at:

http://marketinformation.natgrid.co.uk/gas/DataItemExplorer.aspx

Natural Gas: Electricity

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the percentage of UK electricity likely to be supplied from renewable sources in each year to 2015. [320365]

Mr. Kidney: The following table gives the percentage of electricity generation from renewable sources in the central scenario from the Low Carbon Transition plan.

	Percentage
2010	7.0
2011	7.6
2012	8.6
2013	10.6
2014	13.3
2015	16.4

Natural Gas: Imports

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the UK's gas demand was met from *(a)* imports via a pipeline, *(b)* imports via liquefied natural gas terminals and *(c)* domestic production in the most recent year for which figures are available. [320511]

Mr. Kidney: The Department for Energy and Climate change collects and publishes monthly data on production, imports and exports of gas in tables ET 4.2 and ET 4.3 on DECC's energy statistics website:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/source/gas/gas.aspx

The tables mentioned above contain provisional 2009 data which show that gross demand (which includes gas exported) was met as follows:

(a) Imports by pipeline 32 per cent.

(b) Imports via liquefied natural gas terminals 10 per cent.

(c) Domestic production 58 per cent.

Natural Gas: Storage

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* capacity and *(b)* maximum withdrawal rate is of each UK gas storage site. [320303]

Mr. Kidney: The Government do not publish detailed technical information on each storage site. However, the latest information on both the capacity and maximum deliverability by UK gas storage site can be found in National Grid's 2009 Ten Year Statement.

Nuclear Power: Research

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has undertaken into the economic viability of installing, maintaining and decommissioning new nuclear plants without public funding; and if he will make a statement. [321339]

Mr. Kidney: The White Paper on Nuclear Power (2008) states that

> "it will be for energy companies to fund, develop and build new nuclear power stations in the UK, including meeting the full costs of decommissioning and their full share of waste management costs".

Section 2 of the White Paper includes more detail on the Government's assessment of the economics of nuclear power.

As announced in the 2009 pre-Budget report, the Department of Energy and Climate Change and HM Treasury are taking forward work to ensure the electricity market framework can most effectively deliver a fair deal for the consumer and the low-carbon investment needed in the long term. This work will report back with initial findings at Budget 2010.

Public Bodies: Energy

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials are employed by the (a) Coal Authority, (b) Committee on Radioactive Waste Management, (c) Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, (d) UK Energy Research Partnership and (e) Civil Nuclear Police Authority. [320319]

Mr. Kidney: The number of officials employed by these organisations is set out in the table:

Organisation	*Number of employees*
Coal Authority	172
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority	[1]355
Civil Nuclear Police Authority	[2]998

[1] Executives/staff plus eight non executives

[2] Employees - made up of 837 police officers and 141 police staff with an additional 20 agency/staff. In addition, the chairman and two independent members of the board are appointed by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and are not included in the employee figures but are on the payroll of the CNPA

The Committee on Radioactive Waste Management is an advisory body to the UK Government and devolved administrations and does not employ any officials directly. The Committee's Secretariat consists of three to four people employed by the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

The Energy Research Partnership is a partnership between, government, industry and research organisations. No civil servants (officials) are employed by ERP. The ERP's Secretariat is supported by a civil servant on a part-time basis.

Renewable Energy

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of *(a)* heating and *(b)* domestic heating in the UK came from renewable sources in the latest period for which figures are available. [320360]

Joan Ruddock: In 2008 renewable heat accounted for 1.0 per cent. of non-electrical heat production in the UK, on a net calorific value basis (7.4 terawatt hours out of 713 terawatt hours). There is no available breakdown on the split between domestic and non-domestic renewable heat production, but estimates suggest that the proportion is similar for domestic heating.

Warm Front Scheme

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to paragraph 7.39, page 127, of the pre-Budget report, Cm 7747, what the budget for the Warm Front scheme is in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-20, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12. [320369]

Mr. Kidney: The following tables show the actual spend in 2008-09 and the budget in 2009-10 and 2010-11 for the Warm Front scheme:

	Actual spend (£ million)
2008-09	397.4

	Budget (£ million)
2009-10	369
2010-11	345

The budget for 2011-12 is yet to be announced.

Wind Power

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has undertaken research into the cost of *(a)* installing and *(b)* maintaining (i) offshore and (ii) onshore wind turbines in relation to (A) their capacity factor and (B) the price of electricity produced in each of these ways; and if he will make a statement. [320977]

Mr. Kidney: The analysis underpinning Renewable Energy Strategy, published in July 2009, used assumptions on the generating costs of different electricity generating technologies to 2020, full details of which are set out in Element (2009) and Redpoint/Trilemma (2009), which are available on the DECC website. The first table as follows summarises these generation cost assumptions with respect to wind generation in 2009, according to load factor assumptions.

In their work for the Renewable Energy Strategy (2009), Redpoint also calculated levelised costs for onshore and offshore wind for the 2009 base capital expenditure levels as follows and other assumptions in the above table. These are set out in the second table.

Technology (source)	*Load factor (percentage)*	*Capital expenditure base (range) in £/kW*	*Operating expenditure in £/kW/year*	*Technology life (years)*
Offshore wind (Redpoint/Trilemma, 2009)	41	2,372	[1]68	[1]20
	35	(2,159-3,036)		
Onshore wind large-scale (Redpoint/Trilemma, 2009)	29	1,208	[1]40	[1]20
	27	(1,172-1,329)		
	21			
Wind 15 kW to 5,000 kW in size (Element, 2009)	2-32	1,500-3,000	44-74	10-20

[1] Indicates a brace.

Technology (source)	*Load factor (percentage)*	*Levelised costs in £/MWh*
Onshore wind large-scale (Redpoint/Trilemma, 2009)	29	74
	27	80
	21	103
Offshore wind (Redpoint/Trilemma, 2009)	41	112
	35	131

Research by Ernst & Young (2009) for DECC found a levelised cost for offshore wind of £144/MWh—available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file51142.pdf

TREASURY

Civil Servants: Location

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 621W, on civil service: location, how many civil servants have been relocated from outside London and the south-east to inside London and the south-east since the 2004 Gershon Report. [320901]

Mr. Byrne: The OGC maintains a central register that records the relocation of civil service posts from London and the south-east. Where known this also records the movement of posts back into the area and these are netted off from the published relocation totals. The figures provided in the answer of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 621W, are net of 1,025 MOD posts, both military and civilian, which are known to have relocated into the south-east.

Construction Industry Training Board

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment his Department has made of the effects on the construction industry of the Construction Industry Training Board levy. [320084]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are working closely with the construction industry to mitigate the impact of the economic downturn. Skill levels and training capability in the industry are protected through the continuing levy arrangements directed by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB).

Levy income in 2008 amounted to £181.8 million. Training grant expenditure by the Board amounted to £176.1 million, with a further £23.2 million of support for employers, for instance for subsidised training courses and apprenticeship allowances. In 2008 CITB returned more money in direct financial assistance to employers than they received in levy (£1.10 returned to every £1 of levy received). This high ratio of support has been made possible because CITB has acted on behalf of the Industry to generate income from sources other than the levy.

CITB have been working with Government and partners to address skills issues caused by the recession, for instance by introducing an Apprenticeship Matching Scheme to help redundant trainees in the industry complete their apprenticeships.

Over the next three years the levy is anticipated to raise between £465 million to £475 million for training in the Construction Sector. Future levy income will enable the CITB to meet the changing skills needs of the sector as it moves out of recession and to meet the challenge of the Government's low-carbon agenda.

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to assist companies in relation to the administration of the Construction Industry Training Board levy. [320085]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The Department supports the work of the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), who are responsible for the administration of the CITB Levy. In order to assist companies through the current recession the CITB have agreed to allow companies to pay the levy in monthly instalments, up to 15 months in some cases, at no extra charge.

The process for completing levy assessments has been simplified and can now be done online. CITB have a dedicated help-desk, and information is available on their website to assist with levy assessments.

CITB also have advisors who go out to companies to assess their training needs and how they can make best use of the grants available to support training their workforce.

Contingent Liabilities

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contingent liabilities of over £100,000 each Government Department has; and on what date Parliament was informed of the contingent liability in each case. [321124]

Mr. Byrne: Information on departmental contingent liabilities is reported in the resource accounts of each government department. As there is no central register this information could only be collected at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Advisory Bodies

Mr. Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many advisory councils his Department has established since 1997. [320966]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Details of Departments' advisory non-departmental public bodies are published annually as part of the Cabinet Office's Public Bodies, copies of which are in the Library and can be accessed via:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/ndpbs.aspx

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on office refurbishments in each of the last 10 years. [320503]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A full PFI refurbishment of the Treasury's building was completed in 2002. The cost of any refurbishments since that date have been included in the annual unitary payment made to the PFI provider and is not separately recorded.

As a result of the introduction of a new accounting system in 2002-03, provision of information prior to that date could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Television

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many television programmes have been sponsored by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies, *(c)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(d)* the Valuation Office Agency in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [320278]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 4 March 2010]:* HM Treasury, its agencies and the Valuation Office Agency have not sponsored any television programmes in the past five years.

For HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell) on 4 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1336W. This is the first sponsorship of this kind that HMRC has undertaken.

Employment

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of *(a)* male and *(b)* female workers were in the same job as 12 months earlier in each (i) region and (ii) country of the UK in each year since 2006. [321117]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 9 March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what percentage of (a) male and (b) female workers were in the same job as 12 months earlier in each (i)region and (ii) country of the UK in each year since 2006. (321117)

Estimates provided in the attached table are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) covering the three months ending December for the period requested.

As with any sample survey, the estimates provided are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: Percentage[1] of workers[2] in the same job for 12 months or longer October to December for each year—Not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

	Male				*Female*				*Total*			
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
United Kingdom	82.6	81.6	83.8	86.0	81.4	81.2	82.6	85.4	82.0	81.4	83.2	85.7
Great Britain	82.7	81.6	83.7	86.1	81.5	81.4	82.8	85.6	82.1	81.5	83.3	85.8
England	82.6	81.6	83.8	86.0	81.4	81.2	82.6	85.4	82.0	81.4	83.2	85.7
North East	81.8	80.5	79.9	87.2	83.4	82.9	82.7	85.1	82.5	81.6	81.2	86.2
North West	82.8	81.5	84.9	84.9	81.5	82.0	81.9	85.0	82.2	81.7	83.5	85.0
Yorkshire and the Humber	81.8	83.6	82.9	86.0	80.8	81.4	83.1	84.3	81.3	82.6	83.0	85.2
East Midlands	82.8	81.3	83.7	86.6	80.7	80.2	82.6	86.2	81.8	80.8	83.2	86.4
West Midlands	83.2	82.4	82.5	85.4	82.1	81.8	83.3	87.1	82.7	82.2	82.9	86.2
East of England	82.7	81.8	85.3	87.5	81.6	80.2	83.5	85.7	82.2	81.1	84.5	86.7
London	81.7	79.5	83.0	84.4	79.0	80.6	80.3	83.5	80.5	80.0	81.8	84.0
South East	82.3	81.2	84.3	85.9	81.0	79.4	81.6	84.6	81.7	80.4	83.1	85.3
South West	82.8	81.9	84.3	85.6	81.0	81.2	82.4	84.9	82.0	81.6	83.4	85.2
Wales	83.2	82.1	83.4	86.1	82.6	81.6	86.3	85.4	83.0	81.9	84.8	85.7
Scotland	83.5	81.2	83.2	86.9	82.1	82.8	83.3	87.4	82.8	81.9	83.3	87.2
Northern Ireland	85.6	86.4	87.4	90.1	86.9	86.4	87.8	90.6	86.2	86.4	87.6	90.3

[1] The denominator includes those in employment who did not state the length of current employment.

[2] People aged 16 and over in employment.

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Equitable Life Assurance Society

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for South Dorset and North Poole of 2 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 212W, on Equitable Life, what preparatory work his Department has undertaken on details of a payment scheme; what directions Ministers in his Department have given to departmental officials on the preparation of such details; and if he will make a statement. [317585]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* Sir John Chadwick expects to submit his final advice to the Government on an Equitable Life ex gratia payment scheme in May.

The Government recognise the importance of responding to this advice as quickly as possible. To accelerate this, HM Treasury has been working to develop aspects of scheme design in parallel to Sir John's work as far as possible. The Government will therefore be able to announce details of a payment scheme—fair to both policyholders and taxpayers—within two weeks of receiving Sir John's advice.

Government Departments: Carbon Emissions

Charles Hendry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 927W, on Government Departments: carbon emissions, what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions likely to arise from Government operations in each department in 2010. [320363]

Ian Pearson: The measure in tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions likely to arise from each Department from Government operations in 2010-11 is estimated to be:

tonnes carbon dioxide

Department	*Carbon from offices 2010-11 estimate (1999-2000 baseline)*	*Carbon from vehicles for administrative purposes 2010-11 estimate (2005-06 baseline)*
BIS	15,057	340
CLG	21,169	3,202
CO	8,005	24
DCSF	7,599	453
DCMS	3,982	35
DEFRA	13,474	20,089
DFID	2,304	15
DfT	20,384	9,230
DWP	182,074	17,071
DH	8,249	721
FCO	9,827	240
HMRC	122,224	17,572
HMT	5,700	117
HO	25,241	2,372
LOD	11,794	1,793
MOD	1,749,211	51,031
MOJ	151,247	7,798
ONS	6,311	2,809

The Government are committed to achieving a reduction in the carbon dioxide emissions from its estate of 12.5 per cent. and from administrative road travel by 15 per cent. both by 2010-11. Progress against these targets is reported annually in the Sustainable Development in Government report. Current projections indicate that Government are expected to exceed these targets: forecasting a 17.8 per cent. reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from offices and 23.7 per cent. reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from road vehicles by 2010-11.

Data supporting these figures have been supplied by Departments and are published annually as part of the Sustainable Development in Government reporting process:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/sustainability_programme_progress.asp

International Business Advisory Council

Mr. Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when the International Business Advisory Council was founded; who the founding members were; what the current membership of the council is; on what dates it has met; and who attended which meetings; [320964]

(2) what the aims and objectives are of the International Business Advisory Council; and what recent assessment he has made of its performance against targets. [320965]

Mr. Timms: The International Business Advisory Council was established by the then Chancellor of the Exchequer in March 2006. The aim of the Council was to provide practical advice on public policy, as opposed to theoretical/academic analysis.

At the creation of the International Business Advisory Council it was composed of the following members:

Bernard Arnault, Chairman and CEO, LVMH

Lord Browne, (then) Group Chief Executive, BP

Dr. Jean-Pierre Garnier, (then) CEO, GlaxoSmithKline

Bill Gates, Chairman, Microsoft Corporation

Sir Li Ka-shing, Chairman, Hutchison Whampoa Ltd.

Sir Terry Leahy, CEO, Tesco

Sir John Rose, CEO, Rolls-Royce

Robert Rubin, (then) Director and Chairman of the Executive Committee, Citigroup Inc.

Lee Scott, (then) President and CEO, Wal-Mart

Ratan Tata, Chairman, Tata Group

Meg Whitman, (then) President and CEO, eBay

James Wolfensohn, Special Envoy for Disengagement and Former President of the World Bank.

The Council met for the first and only time at a breakfast meeting on 17 November 2006. In addition to the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, the attendees were:

Mr. Robert Rubin (then of Citigroup)

Sir Li Ka-Shing (Hutchinson Whampoa)

Sir John Rose (Rolls-Royce)

Dr. Jean-Pierre Garnier (then of GlaxoSmithKline)

Mr. Ratan Tata (Tata Group)

Mr. Bernauld Arnault (LVMH)

Ms Meg Whitman (then of eBay).

In June 2007, Prime Minister Gordon Brown established the Business Council for Britain to ensure that the Government focus on the areas where it will make the greatest benefit to the business environment. Former members of the International Business Advisory Council are invited to attend formal meetings of the Business Council for Britain, and a number of them have done so.

For information on the current work of the Business Council for Britain please consult:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/aboutus/corporate/bcb/index.html

Investment

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the level of *(a)* UK investment overseas and *(b)* foreign direct investment in the UK has been in each year since 2006; what proportion of investment in the UK was represented by foreign direct investment in each year; and what the level of investment in the UK was in each such year. [321121]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 5 March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the level of (a) UK investment overseas and (b) foreign direct investment in the UK has been in each year since 2006; what proportion of total investment in the UK was represented by foreign direct investment in each year; and what the total level of investment in the UK was in each such year. (321121)

The tables attached provide the figures for financial flows and the international investment position of the UK from 2006 to 2008. In accordance with the definitions of balance of payments statistics, investment data are presented in terms of economic transactions between UK residents and the rest of the world. Total investment in the UK is calculated by aggregating the rest of the world's direct, portfolio and other investment in the UK. The figure reported for total investment therefore excludes any domestic investment in the UK. The figures are published in the financial account and the international investment position of the UK's Balance of Payments Statistical Bulletin. Provisional figures for 2009 will be published on Tuesday, 30 March 2010.

Table 1: Investment flows, in £ million unless otherwise stated[1,2,3]

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
UK investment overseas	571859	995677	-614196
Foreign direct investment in the UK	84889	98150	49767
Proportion of total Investment in the UK represented by foreign direct investment (percentage)	13.91	9.55	-8.31
Total investment in the UK	610084	1027353	-599014

Table 2: International investment position at end of year, in £ million unless otherwise stated[4]

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
UK investment overseas (assets)	5212273	6384633	6967542
Foreign direct investment in the UK (liabilities)	578289	630164	672289
Proportion of total Investment in the UK represented by foreign direct investment (percentage)	10.39	9.45	9.57
Total investment in the UK (liabilities)	5564833	6667153	7026728

[1] A negative figure implies disinvestment.

[2] The figures are consistent with the Financial Account, Table J of the UK's Balance of Payments Statistical Bulletin Q3 2009.

[3] The annual figures for the investment flows are compiled by summing the flows of the four quarters.

[4] The figures are consistent with the international investment position, Table K of the UK's Balance of Payments Statistical Bulletin Q3 2009.

Loans

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the tripartite authorities first discussed the risks associated with *(a)* self-certification loans and *(b)* non-deposit taking mortgage lending. [318015]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The three authorities—Bank, HMT and FSA—meet on a very regular basis at a number of levels under the auspices of the memorandum of understanding.

The Standing Committee met at least monthly to discuss financial stability issues. The Government do not comment on meetings of the Standing Committee.

Since the beginning of 2010, the Standing Committee has been replaced by the Council for Financial Stability, which will hold quarterly strategic discussions that will be publicly minuted. The Council will be established in statute by the Financial Services Bill, but the Government have moved to these arrangements initially on a non-statutory basis.

Public Bodies: Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a table showing for each public body the *(a)* address, *(b)* total floor area and *(c)* vacant space recorded on the electronic property information mapping service e-PIMS database. [311496]

Ian Pearson: The information requested for the mandated central Government civil office estate as at 12 January 2010 has been placed in the Library of the House.

Public Bodies: Location

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Government agencies and bodies created since 2004 have established their offices in London and the south-east. [320722]

Ian Pearson: The Treasury does not hold a central record that lists which Government agencies and bodies created since 2004 have established their offices in London and the south-east.

Public Sector: Pay

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of the change in the public sector wage bill attributable to *(a)* pay awards and *(b)* grade drift in each year since 1997. [318662]

Mr. Byrne: The ONS publish the Average Earnings Index (AEI) for the public sector on a monthly basis, which is available from 1997 at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=9537

The difference between average earnings growth and pay settlements can be attributed to a number of factors, such as progression payments, performance related pay and grade drift (when it occurs). The ONS does not however break down the data in this way.

Revenue and Customs: Hotels

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruslip Northwood of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 621W, on hotels, for what reason *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency do not use the Expotel facility to book hotel accommodation. [320902]

Mr. Timms: Neither HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) nor the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) have a contract with Expotel to arrange any travel services on their behalf.

HMRC and VOA currently contract with Carlson Wagonlit for travel management services relating to hotels, rail, air and conferencing.

Revenue and Customs: Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what bonus payments were made to HM Revenue and Customs staff *(a)* at each grade and *(b)* in each Department in each of the last five financial years. [320659]

Mr. Timms: The information requested relating to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is provided in the table. Information for earlier years could be provided only at disproportionate cost, due to the work required to collate this. Data for 2009-10 have not yet been finalised.

Performance bonuses are based on performance in the previous year.

In 2007-08 bonus payments were made to top performers and good performers on the pay band range maximum, as they had received a lower consolidated pay award. In 2008-09 bonuses were paid only to top performers.

	2007-08		*2008-09*	
	Total bonus paid (rounded to nearest £000)	*Average bonus paid (£)*	*Total bonus paid (rounded to nearest £000)*	*Average bonus paid (£)*
Admin Assistant	1,423,000	168	467,000	343
Admin Officer	4,500,000	211	1,736,000	416
Officer	4,764,000	325	2,421,000	555
Higher Officer	3,013,000	437	1,830,000	701
Senior Officer	1,603,000	582	1,096,000	872
Fast Stream	77,000	496	46,000	695
Grade 7	830,000	908	754,000	1,151
Grade 6	633,000	1,123	653,000	1,465

	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
	Total bonus paid (rounded to nearest £000)	Average bonus paid (£)	Total bonus paid (rounded to nearest £000)	Average bonus paid (£)	Total bonus paid (rounded to nearest £000)	Average bonus paid (£)
AA	19,250	350	21,000	350	18,200	350
AO	24,500	350	28,000	350	21,700	350
EO	26,250	350	29,750	350	32,200	350
HEO	67,650	550	88,000	550	73,700	550
SEO	58,300	550	57,750	550	71,500	550
G7	25,500	750	29,250	750	39,000	750
G6	6,750	750	12,000	750	12,750	750
Senior Civil Service	49,000	6,943	98,000	9,820	[1]	[1]

[1] Not yet finalised

Tax Allowances

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 622W, on Revenue and Customs, what the cost to the Exchequer has been of tax relief from the employee share scheme; whether that amount is included in the £9.6 million referred to in the answer; how many transactions have been processed under the scheme in each year; how many individual taxpayers have participated in the scheme; what consultants were used to formulate the project; and at what cost. [320909]

Mr. Timms: The estimated cost to the Exchequer of tax and national insurance contributions (NICs) relief of tax-advantaged employee share schemes and the number of individual taxpayer participants in each of the schemes are published at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/emp_share_schemes/menu.htm

The amount of £9.6 million referred to in the answer to hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood (Mr. Hurd) of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 622W, is not included in the estimates of the cost of tax and NICs relief, because it is a separate cost of introducing and providing the employee share schemes (ESS) online service and database. The ESS service was delivered by Capgemini under HMRC's outsourced IT contract. The numbers of transactions processed using the ESS service database per year are approximately 40,000 in 2007-08, 28,000 in 2008-09 and 23,000 to date in 2009-10.

Tax Collection

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the membership is of the group in HM Revenue and Customs advising on the implementation of the recommendations of the Calman Commission report of changes to tax collection. [321298]

Mr. Timms: The advisory group has not been formed yet. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will issue invitations to professional and employer representatives before the relevant legislation is introduced. The group will enable HMRC to consult on some of the technical and practical implications of the implementation of the proposed tax changes announced in the Government's White Paper 'Scotland's Future in the United Kingdom', available at:

http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk

Taxation: Football

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the *(a)* football debts and *(b)* other transfer fees of a football club in administration take priority over debts owned to HM Revenue and Customs; and if he will make a statement. [320990]

Mr. Timms: There is nothing in insolvency legislation that provides for football debts or other transfer fees of clubs in administration to be paid prior to other unsecured creditors such as HM Revenue and Customs.

Ensuring tax is paid on time should be at the centre of any football club's business strategy, as it should be for any other responsible enterprise.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Fees and Charges

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average fee cost was of a further education level 3 course for adults in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [320529]

Kevin Brennan: Learners aged from 19 up to 25 undertaking further education courses which will lead to their first full level 3 qualification (two A-levels or vocational equivalent) are legally entitled to have their training fully funded. This approach ensures that young adults have the opportunity to gain a full level 3 qualification, enabling them to progress into employment or further learning, including higher education.

Where a learner is outside of this entitlement and is not in receipt of income-related benefits then they or their employer is expected to contribute to the cost of their learning to reflect the benefits they will realise from this investment. For the 2010/11 academic year, the assumed level of fee contribution will be based on 50 per cent. of the national funding rate.

However, individual colleges and training organisations, as independent institutions, have the flexibility to set their own fees for each course, and data on the levels of fees collected for each course are not centrally collected. It is therefore not possible to provide an average cost of a further education level 3 course to the learner.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average course fee paid by employers taking on adult apprentices was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [320530]

Kevin Brennan: In 2008-09 academic year, the number of apprenticeship frameworks completed was 143,400, meaning that the Government's public service agreement target was met two years early. Within this group, 75,700 of these apprentices were adults, aged 19 and above. Adult apprentices are funded differently from those aged between 16 and 18, and the employer is expected to make a contribution to the cost of the course in line with the national fee assumption, which for 2010/11 academic year will be 50 per cent. of the national funding rate. Employer contributions may be in cash to the training provider or in kind through supporting the delivery of the training activity.

However, individual colleges and training organisations, as independent institutions, have the flexibility to set their own fee cost for each course, including apprenticeships, and data on the levels of fees collected for each course are not centrally collected. It is therefore not possible to provide an average fee for an adult apprenticeship.

Adult Education: Finance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will review the equity of the allocation process for distribution of Adult Safeguarded Learning funds during the transfer of responsibility for informal learning to the Skills Funding Agency. [321375]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 758W.

Audit: Misconduct

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what reports his Department has received of instances of malpractice by chartered accountants in company financial audits since January 2008. [321045]

Ian Lucas: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills does not routinely receive reports of malpractice by chartered accountants in company financial audits. These issues are the responsibility of the Recognised Supervisory Bodies for auditors ("RSBs"), and in cases which raise important issues affecting the public interest, the Accountancy and Actuarial Discipline Board ("AADB") of the Financial Reporting Council ("FRC"). The Professional Oversight Board of the FRC provides statistical information on complaints to the RSBs about statutory auditors, in its Annual Report to my Noble Friend the Secretary of State, which is presented to Parliament each year.

The RSBs are the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants; the Association of Authorised Public Accountants; the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales; The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland; and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland.

Banks

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1105W, on banks, what recent assessment he has made of the merits of establishing a state-owned investment bank; and if he will make a statement. [321079]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column reference 1105W.

Bearwood Corporate Services

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will investigate the status as a company of Bearwood Corporate Services since 2003. [321383]

Ian Lucas: Bearwood Corporate Services Ltd. is a trading company and has been since 2003. The latest accounts on file are for the year ending 30 September 2008 and the latest annual return is made up to 23 June 2009. The company is, therefore, filed up to date.

Building Colleges for the Future Programme

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been allocated in capital funding for further education colleges in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* region in each of the last three years. [319919]

Kevin Brennan: In total across this current spending period, Government will spend £1.7 billion on college buildings—with a further £900 million already earmarked for the next spending period.

The following three tables provide the information requested:

Table 1: Detailed college capital projects approved in the LSC financial years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10, broken down by parliamentary constituency

	£		£
	Grant approved in LSC financial year		
Local authority area	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Aldershot total	130,000	765,000	
Altrincham and Sale, West total		17,753,075	
Barnsley, Central total	942,284		38,747,209
Barrow and Furness total			31,967,000
Basingstoke total		9,368,000	
Battersea total		2,037,970	23,816,070
Beverley and Holderness total	12,591,550	11,620,421	

Table 1: Detailed college capital projects approved in the LSC financial years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10, broken down by parliamentary constituency

	Grant approved in LSC financial year		£
Local authority area	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Birmingham, Northfield total	—	—	53,928,565
Birmingham, Yardley total	9,579,593	—	—
Bishop Auckland total	—	18,249,030	—
Blackpool, South total	10,719,000	—	—
Bolton, South-East total	6,402,000	73,680,080	—
Bootle total	—	368,139	—
Bracknell total	26,431,460	—	—
Bradford ,West total	1,933,671	—	—
Brent, East total	1,720,245	—	—
Brentford and Isleworth total	243,769	59,132,738	—
Bristol, East total	1,634,000	15,700,000	—
Bristol, South total	—	8,223,000	—
Bromsgrove total	250,000	—	—
Burnley total	48,526,000	—	—
Bury, North total	—	198,500	—
Cheadle total	—	833,132	—
Chipping Barnet total	—	20,371,333	—
City of Chester total	—	—	47,872,000
Colchester total	12,726,000	—	—
Cotswold total	—	1,464,538	—
Coventry, South total	16,881,835	—	—
Crewe and Nantwich total	—	58,503,405	—
Croydon, Central total	—	28,969,905	—
Croydon, South total	—	31,887,240	—
Dartford total	24,555,000	—	50,496,000
Derby, South total	18,479,280	1,074,800	—
Easington total	22,983,000	—	—
East Hampshire total	7,532,749	1,188,000	—
Eddisbury total	6,237,944	—	—
Great Yarmouth total	—	5,200,000	—
Halesowen and Rowley Regis total	934,848	—	—
Harborough total	—	36,899,513	—
Harrow, West total	60,500	4,644,000	—
Hartlepool Total	—	20,753,000	38,994,000
Hastings and Rye total	—	—	75,997,822
Hazel Grove total	—	39,156,000	—
Hereford total	7,596,883	1,945,758	—
Hertford and Stortford total	25,806,475	—	—
Hornchurch total	—	1,078,000	—
Horsham total	—	386,000	—
Huddersfield total	95,000	—	54,325,948
Ipswich total	42,817,000	—	—
Keighley total	29,518,961	—	—
Kettering total	—	210,067	27,000,000
Kingston upon Hull, North total	5,510,038	10,343,700	—
Leeds, Central total	3,764,346	5,314,000	—
Leicester, South total	30,065,000	—	—
Lewes total	—	6,212,000	—
Leyton and Wanstead total	3,277,500	—	31,566,624
Lincoln total	502,244	136,186	—
Liverpool, Wavertree Total	432,544	17,402,873	—
Loughborough total	2,621,136	—	—
Luton, North total	—	49,742,000	—
Maidenhead total	—	11,032,000	—
Manchester, Central total	—	15,276,677	7,038,000
Mitcham and Morden total	—	11,454,727	—
Newcastle upon Tyne Central total	389,417	—	—
Newcastle-under-Lyme total	24,104,548	5,274,509	—
North West Norfolk total	—	313,870	—
Northampton, North total	—	67,024,221	—
Nottingham, South total	3,044,710	—	—
Orpington total	—	24,624,000	—

Table 1: Detailed college capital projects approved in the LSC financial years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10, broken down by parliamentary constituency

£

	Grant approved in LSC financial year		
Local authority area	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Pontefract and Castleford total	453,000	—	—
Portsmouth, North total	23,871,000	—	—
Preston total	6,424,000	—	—
Regent's Park and Kensington, North total	11,143,899	92,113,362	—
Reigate total	—	54,990,000	—
Rochford and Southend, East total	—	3,925,000	—
Rotherham total	—	250,800	—
Selby total	—	24,779,157	—
Sheffield, Central total	36,067,800	—	—
Sheffield, Brightside total	—	66,948	—
Solihull total	1,672,580	19,864,490	—
South-East Cambridgeshire total	2,314,000	—	—
South Norfolk total	—	13,396,000	—
South West Surrey total	1,050,355	—	—
Southampton, Itchen total	—	19,404,000	—
St. Helens, South total	23,149,995	16,238,965	17,400,000
Stockport total	16,566,000	3,432,296	—
Stockton, South total	—	24,281,000	—
Stoke-on-Trent, Central total	7,755,000	23,845,618	—
Tonbridge and Malling total	5,807,800	72,878,000	—
Truro and St. Austell total	—	12,537,700	—
Tyne Bridge total	1,165,000	4,285,000	—
Walsall, South total	37,087,459	—	—
Warley total	—	—	47,184,856
Warwick and Leamington total	—	10,023,036	—
Watford total	—	16,892,000	—
Weaver Vale total	—	25,129,523	—
West Lancashire total	1,322,000	—	32,596,186
Westmorland and Lonsdale total	10,126,000	—	—
Wolverhampton, South-West total	1,350,000	—	—

Table 2: Detailed college capital projects approved in the LSC financial years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10, broken down by local authority area

£

	Grant approved in LSC financial year		
Local authority area	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Barnet LBC total	—	20,371,333	—
Barnsley MBC total	942,284	—	38,247,200
Birmingham City Council total	9,579,593	—	53,928,565
Blackpool Council total	10,719,000	—	—
Bolton Council total	6,402,000	73,680,000	—
Bracknell Forest Borough Council total	26,431,460	—	—
Bradford total	29,518,961	—	—
Bradford MDC total	1,933,671	—	—
Brent LBC total	1,720,245	—	—
Bristol City Council total	1,634,000	23,923,000	—
Bury MBC total	—	198,500	—
Cambridgeshire County Council total	2,314,000	—	—
Cheshire East Council total	6,237,944	58,503,405	—
Cheshire West and Chester Council total	—	25,129,523	47,872,000
Cornwall county council total	—	12,537,700	—
Coventry City Council total	16,881,835	—	—
Croydon LBC total	—	60,857,145	—
Cumbria County Council total	10,126,000	—	31,967,000
Derbyshire County Council total	18,479,280	1,074,800	—
Dudley total	934,848	—	—
Durham County Council total	22,983,000	18,249,030	—
East Riding of Yorkshire total	12,993,550	11,620,421	—
East Sussex County Council total	—	6,212,000	75,997,822
Essex County Council total	12,726,000	—	—
Gateshead Council total	—	4,285,000	—
Gloucestershire total	—	1,464,538	—

Table 2: Detailed college capital projects approved in the LSC financial years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10, broken down by local authority area

£

	Grant approved in LSC financial year		
Local authority area	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Hampshire LA total	31,533,749	11,321,000	—
Harrow Council total	60,500	4,644,500	—
Hartlepool total	—	20,753,000	38,994,000
Havering total	—	1,078,000	—
Herefordshire Council total	7,596,883	1,945,758	—
Hertfordshire county council total	25,806,475	16,892,000	—
Hounslow LBC total	243,769	59,132,738	—
Kensington and Chelsea LBC total	—	4,445,362	—
Kent County Council total	30,362,800	97,502,000	50,496,000
Kingston upon Hull City Council total	5,510,038	10,343,700	—
Kirklees total	95,000	—	54,325,948
Lancashire County Council total	54,950,000	—	32,596,186
Leeds total	5,764,346	—	—
Leeds City Council total	—	5,314,000	—
Leicestershire County Council total	32,686,136	36,899,513	—
Lincolnshire total	502,244	136,186	—
Liverpool total	432,544	17,402,873	—
Luton total	—	49,742,000	—
Manchester City Council total	—	16,109,809	7,038,000
Merton total	—	11,454,727	—
Newcastle total	1,554,417	—	—
Norfolk County Council total	—	18,909,670	—
North Yorkshire County council total	—	24,779,157	—
Northamptonshire County Council total	—	67,234,288	27,000,000
Nottinghamshire County Council total	3,044,710	—	—
Rotherham MBC total	—	250,800	—
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead total	—	11,032,000	—
Sandwell MBC total	—	—	47,184,856
Sefton total	—	368,139	—
Sheffield City Council total	36,067,880	66,948	—
Solihull Council total	1,672,580	19,864,490	—
Southampton City Council total	—	19,404,000	—
Southend-on-sea bo[illegible]gh council total	—	3,925,000	—
St. Helen's Council to[illegible]	23,149,995	16,238,965	17,400,000
Staffordshire total	24,104,548	5,274,509	—
Stockport MBC total	16,566,000	42,588,296	—
Stockton on Tees BC total	—	24,281,000	—
Stoke on Trent City Council total	7,755,000	23,845,618	—
Suffolk County Council total	42,817,000	—	—
Surrey County Council total	1,050,355	54,990,000	—
Trafford MBC total	—	17,753,075	—
Wakefield total	453,000	—	—
Walsall Council total	37,087,459	—	—
Waltham Forest total	3,277,500	—	31,566,624
Wandsworth LBC total	—	2,037,970	23,816,070
Warwickshire County Council total	—	10,023,036	—
West Sussex County Council total	—	386,000	—
Westminster City Council total	11,143,899	87,668,000	—
Wigan MBC total	1,322,000	—	—
Wolverhampton City Council total	1,350,000	—	—
Worcestershire total	250,000	—	—

Table 3: Detailed college capital projects approved in the LSC financial years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10, broken down by region

£

	Grant approved in LSC financial year		
Region	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
EM total	54,712,370	105,344,787	27,000,000
ER total	83,663,475	89,468,870	—
GL total	16,445,913	276,313,275	55,382,694
NE total	309,000	33,526,000	71,590,186
NR total	24,228,417	29,757,030	

Table 3: Detailed college capital projects approved in the LSC financial years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10, broken down by region

£

Region	Grant approved in LSC financial year		
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
NW total	131,553,232	272,257,665	104,277,000
SE total	87,730,615	176,223,000	126,493,822
SW total	1,634,000	37,925,238	
WM total	107,212,746	60,953,411	101,113,421
YH total	90,878,730	52,375,026	93,073,157

Departmental Advertising

Angus Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its (i) non-departmental public bodies and (ii) executive agencies in each year since 2005. [319815]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Na h-Eileanan an Iar (Mr. MacNeil) on 8 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 138W.

Departmental Correspondence

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to how many *(a)* emails and *(b)* letters sent by post from members of the public his Department has responded since May 2007. [319751]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has responded to 76,016 letters from members of the public since May 2007.

Since January 2009 the Department has responded to 10,931 e-mails. The Department has no records for e-mails before that date.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many full-time equivalent staff of each grade are employed by his Department to assist special advisers. [321128]

Mr. McFadden: There are currently four full-time equivalent staff employed by the Department to assist the four special advisers who support my Noble Friend the Secretary of State and the other two BIS Ministers who attend Cabinet each week, my noble Friend the Minister of State for Science and Innovation and myself.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills from which companies his Department sourced temporary staff in each of the last three years; how many temporary staff his Department employed in each year; and what the monetary value of the contracts with each such company was in each such year. [320018]

Mr. McFadden: For the supply of temporary staff (interim managers, specialist contractors and admin/clerical workers), the Department uses a range of companies under the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Buying Solutions framework agreement.

The OGC is an independent office of HM Treasury, established to help Government deliver best value from their spending.

The procurement of temporary staff is not managed centrally in the Department as responsibility has been devolved locally to line management. Companies used under the framework will vary depending on the specialist needs of the line. Therefore the information is not easily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Engineering: Construction

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of UK engineering construction firms which have secured contracts for work in other EU member states in each of the last five years. [320921]

Ian Lucas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 613W. Information relating to the securing of individual contracts in a particular sector, including engineering construction, is not collated by Government. The awarding of engineering construction contracts is a business matter for the parties concerned, and the various award criteria are commercial issues for the private sector clients involved.

Higher Education: Admissions

Michael Gove: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of students from *(a)* comprehensive and *(b)* independent schools attended Russell Group universities in (i) 1997, (ii) 2003 and (iii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [321389]

Mr. Lammy: The latest estimates show that some 19 per cent. (23,700) of state school A-level candidates who attempted one or more A-levels (or equivalent) at age 17 in 2005/06, progressed to a Russell Group HE institution by age 19 in 2006/07. The equivalent figure for candidates from independent school pupils was 46 per cent. (13,000).

These figures have been estimated using matched data from the National Pupil Database and the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record.

Holiday Leave

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to how many contracted days' paid holiday on average employees in each employment category in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector were entitled in the latest year for which figures are available. [320648]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many contracted days' paid holiday on average employees in each employment category in the (a) public and (b) private sector were entitled in the latest year for which figures are available. 320648

Estimates of average paid holiday entitlement per year are provided in the attached table by sector and by whether the employees are part-time or full-time. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The distinction between public and private sector is based on respondents' views about the organisation for which they work. Similarly, the distinction between full-time and part-time is based purely on how respondents regard their employment status.

As with any sample survey, the estimates provided are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Paid holiday entitlement for full-time and part-time employees by sector, three months ending December 2009, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

	Average paid holiday entitlement (days per year)[1]		
	Public sector[2]	Private sector	Total
Full-time	31	23	25
Part-time	23	14	17
All employees	29	21	23

[1] Excluding public holidays.

[2] Includes nationalised industry or state corporation, central government, civil service, local government or council (including police, fire services and local authority controlled schools or colleges), university or other grant funded educational establishment, health authority or NHS trust and armed forces

Source:

ONS Labour Force Survey

Minimum Wage

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people were paid at the rate of the national minimum wage in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [321077]

Mr. McFadden: Data for earnings are not available at the local authority or constituency level because of small sample sizes at these levels in the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE).

Due to rounding in the conversion of payroll data into hourly wage rates and small sample sizes for 16-17 and 18-21 year olds in ASHE, it is not possible at the regional level to infer the number of employees earning exactly at the national minimum wage (NMW) with sufficient certainty. However it is possible to estimate the number who were paid at or below the NMW.

Table 1 shows estimates from BIS analysis of ASHE for the number of jobholders in the North-East Government Office Region and the UK who were paid at or below the NMW in April of each year from 2004 to 2009. Comparable data for earlier years are not available as supplementary information required for the estimates was introduced in 2004.

Table 1: Number of jobholders earning at or below the national minimum wage rate in April of reference year

	North East	UK
2004	40,000	580,000
2005	50,000	690,000
2006	40,000	740,000
2007	50,000	830,000
2008	50,000	830,000
2009	50,000	790,000

Source:

BIS analysis of Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000.

Mobile Phones: Competition

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effect on new entrants to the market of the proposed merger between T-Mobile and Orange. [321051]

Kevin Brennan: It is the responsibility of the relevant competition authorities to determine whether a merger results in any substantial lessening of competition. This test includes any likely effect on new entrants into a market. In this case, the investigation was undertaken by the European Commission and its decision can be viewed at the following link:

http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/208

Motor Vehicles: Government Assistance

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of trends in the volume of greenhouse gas emissions attributable to the manufacture of vehicles sold to consumers participating in the vehicle scrappage scheme. [321253]

Ian Lucas: No detailed assessment has been made this Department. According to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, average CO_2 emissions of a car bought through the scheme was 133.3 g/km, almost 10 per cent. below the overall new car market average and 26.8 per cent. below the average figure for a scrapped car.

National Enterprise Academy: Expenditure

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been spent on *(a)* the National Enterprise Academy and *(b)* enterprise academies in each year since their inception. [319903]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Learning and Skills Council (LSC) spend on the National Enterprise Academy was £394,950 in 2008-09 financial year, and £1,498,985 in 2009-10 financial year, a total of £1,893,935 to date (as at February 2010).

(b) There are no other enterprise academies in receipt of funding through the national skills academies programme.

Overseas Students: Entry Clearances

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an estimate of the effects of recent changes in the tier 4 points-based visa system on *(a)* the number of overseas students attending UK universities over the next 10 years and *(b)* the income of UK universities over the next 10 years. [321314]

Mr. Lammy: The changes to tier 4 of the points-based system, announced by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on 10 February, are designed to ensure that there are no barriers to higher education institutions offering courses to genuine international students.

Demand from international students to study in the UK has grown considerably over recent years and early indications are that it continues to grow in 2010. We do not forecast the likely numbers of international students studying in the UK for future years. It is entirely up to universities to decide how many international students they enrol. In 2007-08 universities derived approximately 8 per cent. of their income from international students.

As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made clear at the start of the year we believe there is scope to double the value of higher education exports, both through continuing to recruit international students as well as the delivery of courses and qualifications abroad.

Overseas Trade: Kazakhstan

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the level of trade between the UK and Kazakhstan; and if he will make a statement. [320775]

Ian Lucas: HM Revenue and Customs Overseas Trade Statistics recorded UK exports of goods to Kazakhstan in 2009 worth about £260 million, compared with £209 million in 2008. UK imports of goods from Kazakhstan in 2009 were worth about £174 million, compared with £112 million in 2008.

The ONS UK Balance of Payments Pink Book gives a figure of UK exports of services to Kazakhstan in 2008 worth about £915 million, and imports worth about £363 million. Geographical data on trade in services for 2009 are due to be published at the end of July.

Post Office

Dr. Palmer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the suitability of Post Office Ltd as a bidder for the contract set out in tender notice 2009/S 247-354963. [319961]

Mr. McFadden: The Government are keen for the Post Office to expand its Government services work. One of the major new opportunities in this area is for post offices to act as centres for the capture of biometric data for passports, driving licences, and potentially ID cards. This issue has been actively considered within Government and the Post Office is expected to bid to be a service provider. The Post Office agreed a deal last year with the DVLA to provide a "one-stop" biometric data capture facility at 750 branches around the country and is therefore well placed to provide similar services.

Post Offices: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many post office branches there were in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(c)* Greater London in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009. [321060]

Mr. McFadden: I have asked Alan Cook, managing director of Post Office Ltd to respond directly to he hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Private Finance Initiative

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department will provide to fund all existing private finance initiative and public-private partnership contracts in each of the next 10 years. [320563]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has one PFI contract which expires in 2014. This covers the supply of a wide range of ICT goods and services. The forecast funding is:

	£ million
2010-11	22
2011-12	22
2012-13	22
2013-14	22

Public Holidays

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the introduction of an additional public holiday; and if he will make a statement. [315125]

Mr. McFadden: This Department has not made an estimate of the costs to the Department of the introduction of an additional public holiday. The additional Bank Holiday to mark Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee announced on 5 January is due to take place in June 2012, which falls in 2012-13 financial year.

Skills Funding Agency

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to ensure that the Skills Funding Agency publishes on its website minutes of its council and committee meetings within two weeks of those meetings taking place; and if he will make a statement. [320276]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 4 March 2010]:* The Skills Funding Agency, as an agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will not have a council and committee structure. The Chief Executive of Skills Funding will ensure that there is external involvement in the Skills Funding Agency governance arrangements and this will take effect after the establishment of the agency on 1 April 2010. Relevant minutes will be available on the Skills Funding Agency website at appropriate intervals, subject to the redaction of any sensitive or confidential information which is exempt under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

Supermarkets: Competition

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether it is his Department's policy to assist small shops adversely affected by competition from supermarkets; and if he will make a statement. [320839]

Kevin Brennan: The Government recognise the important role of small shops to local communities and, the national economy. There is a wide range of support available which can be accessed through business link:

www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp

Local planning authorities are required to take into account the Government's Planning Policy to help safeguard retail diversity and vibrancy of town centres which includes creating opportunities for small shops.

Ensuring fair competition in markets is a matter for the independent competition authorities. The Competition Commission, who reported on the market on the UK supply of groceries in 2008 concluded that while the process of competition can be challenging, it was generally working well and delivered good outcomes for consumers.

Trade Promotion: Indonesia

Mr. Soames: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to promote UK trade and investment with Indonesia. [320962]

Ian Lucas: Indonesia is one of UK Trade and Investment's 17 high-growth markets which received additional resource in 2006 to ensure UK business can benefit from the opportunities in this market. The Asia Task Force chaired by my noble Friend the Secretary of State undertakes an outreach programme alerting UK business to the potential of Asia markets. Indonesia is a key component of this work. We expect this work to continue throughout 2010.

My noble Friend the Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Small Business visited Jakarta in November 2009. During meetings with the Government of Indonesia, he secured progress on a number of important market access issues that will help to open doors for British business. Following this visit, a report has been commissioned on doing business with Indonesia which will help UK companies to understand and navigate the business environment better in Indonesia. This work will be disseminated broadly later in the year.

Trade Promotion: Turkey

Mr. Soames: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to promote UK trade and investment with Turkey. [320961]

Ian Lucas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) has identified Turkey as one of 17 high-growth markets which are afforded higher focus and greater attention under the 2006 strategy "Prosperity in a Changing World". UKTI supports business through trade and investment teams based in Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir in Turkey. They provide a range of support services to UK companies wishing to trade with or set up joint ventures in Turkey. These are detailed on the UKTI web pages. There is also a team in Istanbul dedicated to promoting opportunities for investment into the UK by Turkish companies.

Regular events are delivered through partner organisations in the English regions and in the devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to make UK companies aware of the prospective opportunities of doing business in Turkey and how best to realise them.

UKTI leads on the work of the Turkey-UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO), which identifies new business opportunities and also focuses on ways to tackle barriers to trade and improve the environment for business.

My noble Friend the Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Small Business, visited Turkey in July 2009 and a ministerial delegation from Turkey is due to visit the UK this month (March 2010).

UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation

Nick Harvey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the target market countries are of the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation. [320755]

Ian Lucas: The current list of UKTI DSO Priority Markets is: Algeria, Australia, Brazil, Denmark, Greece, India, Iraq, Japan, South Korea, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, UAE and the USA. UKTI DSO is supporting campaigns in a total of 52 countries.

Unemployment

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in each ethnic group were not in education, employment or training in each quarter of the last five years. [319901]

Kevin Brennan: The following table gives the number and percentage of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training for each ethnic group for every quarter in the last five years. These estimates are from the Labour Force survey.

Please note that these estimates are subject to large sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their confidence intervals[2] (CIs, given in Table 2), which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a CI of+/-4.2 percentage points (pp) means that the true value is between 4.2pp above the estimate and 4.2pp below the estimate.

These figures are not seasonally adjusted and therefore adjacent quarters are not directly comparable.

Table 1: People aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training for each ethnic group—England

		Number NEET						Percentage NEET					
Quarter	*Year*	*Total*	*White*	*Mixed*	*Asian or Asian British*	*Black or Black British*	*Other ethnic group*	*Total*	*White*	*Mixed*	*Asian or Asian British*	*Black or Black British*	*Other ethnic group*
Q1	2005	743,000	619,000	17,000	62,000	27,000	17,000	13.1	12.7	16.7	16.8	17.0	12.8
Q2	2005	771,000	624,000	20,000	66,000	33,000	26,000	13.5	12.8	18.9	17.6	19.2	16.5
Q3	2005	877,000	718,000	17,000	81,000	33,000	28,000	15.2	14.5	16.0	20.0	20.4	21.3
Q4	2005	837,000	639,000	18,000	72,000	28,000	29,000	14.6	14.0	15.6	18.3	18.2	20.6
Q1	2006	801,000	667,000	14,000	67,000	27,000	27,000	14.0	13.6	13.5	16.5	16.2	18.6
Q2	2006	851,000	704,000	16,000	70,000	31,000	29,000	14.8	14.3	17.4	17.1	18.5	17.1
Q3	2006	969,000	802,000	20,000	88,000	31,000	27,000	16.6	16.0	20.5	21.2	18.1	18.4
Q4	2006	807,000	681,000	16,000	61,000	28,000	20,000	13.8	13.5	16.2	15.5	17.1	13.4
Q1	2007	827,000	691,000	18,000	70,000	25,000	23,000	14.1	13.8	20.0	16.7	15.5	12.7
Q2	2007	833,000	681,000	19,000	76,000	28,000	26,000	14.2	13.7	20.1	18.3	16.5	13.9
Q3	2007	909,000	751,000	17,000	78,000	32,000	29,000	15.4	14.9	18.5	18.1	17.4	17.9
Q4	2007	781,000	645,000	18,000	61,000	31,000	23,000	13.1	12.7	18.5	15.0	17.2	13.8
Q1	2008	809,000	663,000	17,000	67,000	33,000	27,000	13.6	13.1	19.9	15.3	19.3	15.3
Q2	2008	837,000	683,000	17,000	71,000	33,000	32,000	13.9	13.4	16.3	15.7	19.5	17.0
Q3	2008	969,000	792,000	20,000	77,000	38,000	35,000	16.1	15.6	17.9	18.2	20.1	18.2
Q4	2008	854,000	702,000	19,000	70,000	32,000	29,000	14.2	13.8	15.8	16.5	15.4	15.8
Q1	2009	933,000	786,000	21,000	66,000	32,000	24,000	15.5	15.5	16.5	15.9	16.6	12.9
Q2	2009	956,000	815,000	25,000	65,000	30,000	20,000	15.8	15.9	21.4	15.9	15.4	11.1
Q3	2009	1,074,000	897,000	22,000	82,000	53,000	16,000	17.9	17.5	19.5	20.9	25.7	10.9
Q4	2009	895,000	741,000	15,000	79,000	42,000	16,000	14.8	14.5	11.9	17.9	21.4	10.8

Note:
Base: 16 to 24 year olds, England
Source:
Labour Force Survey

Table 2: Confidence intervals for NEET percentages given in Table 1

		Confidence intervals					
Quarter	*Year*	*Total*	*White*	*Mixed*	*Asian or Asian British*	*Black or Black British*	*Other ethnic group*
Q1	2005	+/-0.7	+/-0.7	+/- 5.5	+1-2.9	+1-4.6	+/- 4.4
Q2	2005	+1-0.7	+/-0.7	+/-5.7	+/- 3.0	+/-4.7	+/-4.7
Q3	2005	+/-0.7	+/-0.7	+/- 5.4	+/-3A	+/-5.1	+/-5.7
Q4	2005	+/-0.7	+/-0.7	+/- 5.2	+/- 3.0	+/- 4.9	+/- 5.4
Q1	2006	+/-0.7	+/-0.7	+/- 5.2	+/-2.9	+/- 4.5	+/-5.1
Q2	2006	+/-0.7	+/-0.7	+/- 5.9	+/- 2.9	+/-4.7	+/- 4.6
Q3	2006	+/-0.7	+/- 0.8	+/- 6.4	+/- 3.2	+/- 4.8	+/- 5.2
Q4	2006	+/-0.7	+/-0.7	+/- 5.8	+/-2.9	+/- 4.8	+/- 4.5
Q1	2007	+/-0.7	+/-0.7	+/- 6.5	+/- 2.9	+/- 4.5	+/- 4.0
Q2	2007	+/-0.7	+/-0.7	+J-6.5	+/- 3.0	+/-4.6	+/- 4.0
Q3	2007	+1-0.7	+/- 0.8	+/- 6.4	+/- 3.0	+/- 4.5	+/-4.9
Q4	2007	+/-0.7	+/-0.7	+/-6.1	+/- 2.8	+/- 4.4	+/- 4.3
Q1	2008	+/-0.7	+/-0.7	+/- 6.5	+/-2.7	+/- 4.8	+/- 4.3
Q2	2008	+1-0.7	+/-0.7	+/-5.7	+/-2.7	+/-5.0	+/- 4.4
Q3	2008	+/-0.7	+/- 0.8	+/- 6.0	+/-3.1	+/- 4.8	+/- 4.6
Q4	2008	+/-0.7	+/- 0.8	+/- 5.3	+/-2.9	+/-4.1	+/- 4.3
Q1	2009	+/-0.7	+/- 0.8	+/- 5.3	+/- 2.9	+/- 4.4	+/- 4.0
Q2	2009	+/- 0.8	+/- 0.8	+/-6.1	+/- 3.0	+/- 4.3	+/- 3.9
Q3	2009	+/- 0.8	+/- 0.9	+/- 6.0	+/- 3.3	+:-5.1	+/- 4.4
Q4	2009	+/-0.7	+/- 0.8	+/-4.7	+1-2.9	+/- 4.8	+/- 4.2

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[1] Age used is the respondents academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August.

[2] Those given are 95 per cent. confidence intervals.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were not in education, employment or training in each quarter of the last five years. [320064]

Kevin Brennan: The following tables show the number and percentage of 16-24 year old men (table 2) and women (table 1) in England who were not in education, employment or training in each quarter of the last five years.

These estimates are taken from the Labour Force survey which, as with any sample survey, is subject to sampling variability. The estimates should therefore be considered along side their confidence intervals (CIs). CIs indicate how accurate an estimate is, for example, a 95 per cent. CI of+/-1.2 percentage points (pp) means that the true value is between 1.2pp above the estimate and 1.2pp below the estimate, for 95 per cent. of estimates.

Table 1: Number and percentage of females aged 16-24 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)

Quarter	*Year*	*Number of 16-24 year old females*	*Percentage (of all 16-24 year old females*	*95 Per cent confidence interval (percentage points)*
Q1	2005	432,000	15.5	+/-1.0
Q2	2005	456,000	16.2	+/-1.0
Q3	2005	504,000	17.7	+/-1.1
Q4	2005	462,000	16.3	+/-1.0
Q1	2006	457,000	16.2	+/-1.0
Q2	2006	484,000	17.0	+/-1.0
Q3	2006	554,000	19.4	+/-1.1
Q4	2006	446,000	15.5	+/-1.0
Q1	2007	456,000	15.8	+/-1.0
Q2	2007	474,000	16.4	+/-1.0
Q3	2007	515,000	17.6	+/-1.0
Q4	2007	444,000	15.2	+/-1.0
Q1	2008	452,000	15.5	+/-1.0
Q2	2008	487,000	16.5	+/-1.0
Q3	2008	554,000	18.8	+/-1.1
Q4	2008	491,000	16.5	+/-1.0
Q1	2009	497,000	16.8	+/-1.1
Q2	2009	510,000	17.2	+/-1.1
Q3	2009	565,000	19.2	+/- 1.2
Q4	2009	493,000	16.5	+/-1.1

Table 2: Number and percentage of males aged 16-24 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)

Quarter	*Year*	*Number of 16-24 year old males NEET*	*Percentage (of all 16-24 year old males)*	*95 Per cent. confidence interval (percentage points)*
Q1	2005	311,000	10.9	+/- 0.9
Q2	2005	314,000	10.9	+/-0.9
Q3	2005	373,000	12.8	+/-0.9
Q4	2005	376,000	12.9	+/-1.0
Q1	2006	344,000	11.8	+/-0.9
Q2	2006	367,000	12.6	+/- 0.9
Q3	2006	415,000	14.0	+/-1.0
Q4	2006	361,000	12.1	+/- 0.9
Q1	2007	371,000	12.5	+/-0.9
Q2	2007	359,000	12.1	+/-0.9
Q3	2007	393,000	13.2	+/- 0.9
Q4	2007	336,000	11.1	+/- 0.9
Q1	2008	357,000	11.8	+/- 0.9
Q2	2008	350,000	11.4	+/-0.9
Q3	2008	415,000	13.6	+/-1.0
Q4	2008	363,000	11.9	+/- 0.9
Q1	2009	437,000	14.3	+/-1.0
Q2	2009	446,000	14.6	+/-1.0
Q3	2009	509,000	16.6	+/-1.1
Q4	2009	403,000	13.2	+/-1.0

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people were not in education, employment or training in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* region in each quarter of the last five years. [320078]

Kevin Brennan: The following tables give the number (table 1) and proportion (table 2) of people aged 16 to 24[1] not in education, employment or training (NEET) for each region in England for every quarter for the last five years. These estimates are from the Labour Force Survey, which has been recently reweighted to revised population estimates and therefore may be marginally different from regional NEET estimates provided previously.

As with any sample survey, the LFS is subject to sampling variability and therefore should be viewed in conjunction with their Confidence Intervals (CI). CIs indicate how accurate an estimate is, and for regional estimates they range from +/- 1.5 to +/- 3.9 percentage points (pp), with an average of+/- 2.2pp. CIs for Q4 2009 have been provided below and a 95 per cent. CI of+A-2.2 percentage points (pp) means that the true value is between 2.2pp above the estimate and 2.2pp below the estimate, for 95 per cent. of estimates.

The Labour Force Survey sample is not large enough to provide quarterly estimates for small geographies such as local authority areas. We are able to give annual estimates for local authorities from the Annual Population Survey, which has a larger sample. The most recent estimate available is for 2008 and I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column reference 402W which provided estimates for local education authorities between 2000 and 2008.

[1] Age used is respondents academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August

Table 1: The number of people aged 16-24 who are not in education, employment or training by region

Quarter		*North East*	*North West*	*York and Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*
Q1	2005	56,000	110,000	89,000	61,000	81,000	60,000	131,000	92,000	63,000
Q2	2005	62,000	117,000	99,000	59,000	88,000	66,000	134,000	85,000	61,000
Q3	2005	68,000	124,000	107,000	67,000	100,000	69,000	156,000	110,000	76,000

Table 1: The number of people aged 16-24 who are not in education, employment or training by region

Quarter		North East	North West	York and Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West
Q4	2005	61,000	114,000	107,000	70,000	93,000	77,000	143,000	110,000	63,000
Q1	2006	52,000	118,000	93,000	77,000	90,000	72,000	132,000	105,000	61,000
Q2	2006	52,000	128,000	105,000	76,000	97,000	86,000	141,000	108,000	59,000
Q3	2006	53,000	140,000	118,000	81,000	112,000	93,000	184,000	115,000	74,000
Q4	2006	45,000	120,000	95,000	65,000	96,000	77,000	147,000	93,000	68,000
Q1	2007	48,000	127,000	96,000	72,000	111,000	77,000	118,000	107,000	70,000
Q2	2007	47,000	134,000	92,000	66,000	106,000	84,000	130,000	112,000	61,000
Q3	2007	52,000	144,000	105,000	81,000	111,000	92,000	135,000	125,000	63,000
Q4	2007	49,000	120,000	82,000	70,000	92,000	74,000	122,000	116,000	56,000
Q1	2008	53,000	135,000	75,000	69,000	95,000	87,000	128,000	104,000	62,000
Q2	2008	56,000	138,000	101,000	70,000	98,000	77,000	130,000	111,000	55,000
Q3	2008	65,000	149,000	119,000	86,000	119,000	83,000	146,000	131,000	71,000
Q4	2008	55,000	141,000	92,000	68,000	104,000	80,000	126,000	124,000	64,000
Q1	2009	58,000	156,000	109,000	70,000	125,000	84,000	120,000	132,000	80,000
Q2	2009	68,000	155,000	123,000	76,000	129,000	83,000	111,000	144,000	68,000
Q3	2009	72,000	181,000	130,000	92,000	121,000	93,000	148,000	147,000	89,000
Q4	2009	68,000	139,000	114,000	72,000	103,000	88,000	119,000	119,000	73,000
Q4 2009 CIs (95% PP)		+/-12,000	+/-17,000	+/-15,000	+/-12,000	+/-15,000	+/-14,000	+/-17,000	+/-16,000	+/-13,000

Table 2: The proportion of all people aged 16-24 who are not in education, employment or training by region

Quarter		North East	North West	York and Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West
Q1	2005	18	14	14	12	13	10	16	11	12
Q2	2005	20	15	16	12	14	11	15	10	11
Q3	2005	23	15	17	13	16	12	18	13	14
Q4	2005	19	14	17	14	15	13	17	13	12
Q1	2006	17	15	14	15	15	12	15	12	11
Q2	2006	17	16	16	15	16	14	16	13	11
Q3	2006	17	17	18	16	18	16	21	13	14
Q4	2006	14	14	14	12	15	13	17	10	12
Q1	2007	15	15	14	14	18	13	14	12	13
Q2	2007	15	16	14	13	17	14	15	12	11
Q3	2007	16	17	16	15	18	15	16	14	11
Q4	2007	15	14	12	13	15	12	14	13	10
Q1	2008	16	16	11	13	15	14	15	11	11
Q2	2008	17	16	15	13	16	13	14	12	10
Q3	2008	20	18	18	16	19	13	16	14	13
Q4	2008	17	17	14	13	16	13	15	13	11
Q1	2009	18	19	16	13	20	14	14	14	14
Q2	2009	21	18	18	14	20	13	13	15	12
Q3	2009	22	21	19	17	19	15	17	16	16
Q4	2009	21	16	17	13	16	14	14	13	13
Q4 2009 95% CIs (PP)		+/-3.7	+/- 2.0	+/- 2.2	+/- 2.3	+/- 2.3	+/- 2.2	+/- 2.0	+/- 1.7	+/- 2.2

CABINET OFFICE

Census: Ethnic Groups

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office to what extent the equality impact assessment conducted by the Office for National Statistics in respect of the 2011 census question development considered the effect on equality of how public bodies use the ethnic group data in meeting the Race Relations Act public sector duties. [320531]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply. Copies of the letters will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the Office for National Statistics sets a minimum threshold for the number of respondents to a specified ethnic group category in deciding on its inclusion or continued inclusion in the Census. [320532]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply. Copies of the letters will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the equality impact assessment conducted by the Office for National Statistics in respect of the 2011 Census question considered the effect on equality of not including legally defined races within the mandatory ethnic group question; and if she will make a statement. [320533]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply. Copies of the letters will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Central Office of Information: Advertising

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the estimated monetary value is of the Central Office of Information framework agreement on classified and recruitment advertising. [320728]

Tessa Jowell: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 3 March 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [320728] asking for the estimated monetary value of the classified and recruitment advertising framework.

The estimated value of the framework for a four year period, when operational, will be up to a maximum value of £16 million.

Civil Servants

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the mean salary of a Grade 7 civil servant was at the latest date for which information is available. [320733]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 9 March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning, what the mean salary of a Grade 7 civil servant was at the latest date for which information is available. (320733)

The Office for National Statistics collects the annual salaries of civil servants, as part of the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES).

The mean salary of a Grade 7 civil servant at 31 March 2009 was £49,290.

Civil Servants: Training

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer of 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 422W, on civil servants, if she will place in the Library a copy of the guidance to civil servants on taking minutes. [312305]

Tessa Jowell: A copy of "Guide to Minute Taking" has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* disciplinary and *(b)* capability procedures have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed in her Department in each of the last five years; how much time on average was taken to complete each type of procedure in each such year; how many and what proportion of her Department's staff were subject to each type of procedures in each such year; and how many and what proportion of each type of procedure resulted in the dismissal of the member of staff. [320633]

Angela E. Smith: Information is not held centrally for capability procedures or disciplinary procedures which are managed by units. To obtain the information and calculate the time taken to complete these cases would require a request to each manager within the Cabinet Office and therefore represents a disproportionate cost.

It is Cabinet Office policy not to report information which may identify individuals, and therefore the data for dismissals have been withheld.

Departmental Public Relations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which public relations companies have had contracts with *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which her Department is responsible since 2004. [321316]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested of the Cabinet Office is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in her Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure her Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [320410]

Angela E. Smith: There has been no centrally organised foreign language coaching for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in Cabinet Office in the last twelve months. All Cabinet Office Management Units have delegated responsibility for their training budgets. This enables them to fund learning and development. Information on attendance and cost is not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Dorneywood and Chevening

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which guests were entertained at *(a)* Dorneywood and *(b)* Chevening in each month since June 2007; and on what date each guest was present. [317598]

Tessa Jowell: The information requested is not held by the Cabinet Office.

The use of Dorneywood is a matter for the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Trustees who manage the estate. The use of Chevening is a matter for the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Chevening Trustees who manage the estate.

Equality Bill

John Howell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the proposed new duty to tackle socio-economic inequalities in the Equality Bill is to apply to all local authorities and fire authorities. [321006]

Michael Jabez Foster: The duty will apply to local authorities, and to fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) where these form part of a local authority. We are discussing with the fire and rescue service and other appropriate stakeholders whether the duty should in due course be extended to all FRAs.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when she expects to reply to the letters of 10 December 2008, 15 July 2009 and 11 November 2009 from the hon. Member for Maldon and East Chelmsford on behalf of a constituent, Mrs E. P. Molloy. [320292]

Angela E. Smith: Letters dated 10 December 2008 and 15 July 2009 were transferred to Treasury on 22 December 2008 and 22 July 2009 respectively. The Department has no record of receiving correspondence from the hon. Member for Maldon and East Chelmsford dated 11 November 2009.

Official Residences

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for how many months each of the unoccupied ministerial residences in Admiralty House has been empty; and how much has been paid in *(a)* utility bills and *(b)* council tax in respect of each such property in each such period. [318250]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 712-13W, and the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 127W.

Official Residences: Empty Property

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many months each vacant ministerial residence has been empty; and how much has been paid in council tax on each such residence since it became vacant; [319559]

(2) what the costs in *(a)* rent, *(b)* council tax, *(c)* utilities, *(d)* cleaning and maintenance and *(e)* other running costs of each individual ministerial residence in Admiralty House were in the most recent year for which figures are available. [319639]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 712-13W and the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 127W.

Population: Statistics

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what methodology the Office for National Statistics uses to calculate its mid-year population estimates. [320726]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what methodology the ONS uses to calculate its Mid-Year Population Estimates (320726).

The ONS produces annual estimates of the resident population of England and Wales as at 30 June each year. ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates are calculated using the cohort component method. This is an established demographic method which is internationally recognised. The method takes the previous year's population estimate, ages the population by one year, adds in the births and takes away the deaths that have taken place during the year and accounts for both international and internal long-term migration. Adjustments are also made for changes to the numbers of armed forces, prisoners and pupils in boarding schools.

The annotated flow-chart 'Mid-year Population Estimates: England & Wales' provides a detailed summary of the cohort component method as used by ONS. A copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

The Government, and ONS in particular, have invested heavily in improving the sources and methods used to produce the population estimates. The Migration Statistics Improvement Programme has already delivered substantial benefits, including improved methods for population estimates that will be published in May 2010. These are a result of extensive research by ONS and a large scale engagement programme with users.

Self-employed: St. Albans

Anne Main: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people resident in St Albans constituency were recorded as self-employed in each year since 1997. [320888]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people resident in St Albans constituency were recorded as self-employed in each year since 1997.(320888)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Unfortunately the sample size does not support analyses of self employed for the constituencies.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Unemployment

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were not in education, employment or training in each quarter since April 2008. [320176]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply

The following table shows the number and percentage of all 16-24[1] year-olds in England who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in each quarter since Q2 2008.

These estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey which, as with any sample survey, is subject to sampling variability., The estimates should therefore be considered along side their Confidence Intervals (CIs). CIs indicate how accurate an estimate is, for example, a 95% CI of+/-0.7 percentage points (pp) means that the true value is between 0.7pp above the estimate and 0.7pp below the estimate, for 95 per cent. of estimates.

These figures are not seasonally adjusted and therefore adjacent quarters are not directly comparable.

[1] Age used is respondents academic age. which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August

Table: Number and percentage of 16-24 year olds not in education, employment and training

Quarter		*Number of 16-24 year-old NEETs*	*Percentage of all 16-24 year-old NEET*	*95% confidence intervals (pp)*
Q2	2008	837,000	13.9	+/-0.7
Q3	2008	969,000	16.1	+/-0.7
Q4	2008	854,000	14.2	+/-0.7
Q1	2009	933,000	15.5	+/-0.7
Q2	2009	956,000	15.8	+/-0.8
Q3	2009	1,074,000	17.9	+/-0.8
Q4	2009	895,000	14.8	+/-0.7

The Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) publishes the above estimates every quarter and the further information can be found here

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000913/NEETQBQ42009final.pdf

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for what average length of time young persons who have been unemployed for six months or more in each district of Manchester have been unemployed. [321080]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for what average length of time young persons who have been unemployed for six months or more in each of the 10 Manchester districts have been unemployed. (321080)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Unfortunately the sample size does not support analyses of unemployment for the requested geography.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 10 March 2010

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Backbench Business Committee

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Leader of the House with reference to the Resolution of the House of 4 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1099, what steps she is taking to establish a Backbench Business Committee in time for the beginning of the next Parliament and to implement the associated recommendations of the First Report of the Select Committee on Reform of the House of Commons, Session 2008-09. [321444]

Barbara Keeley: The Government will bring forward a motion shortly.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers' Benefits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment she has made of the level of demand for employment support from carers; and how many carers have been helped into work as a result of the £38 million funding for employment support for carers referred to in the 2008 National Carers Strategy for Carers. [320938]

Jonathan Shaw: The National Carers Strategy included a commitment that, by 2011, Jobcentre Plus would ensure carers have access to appropriate employment programmes, and fund replacement care for those participating in approved training.

To fulfil this commitment, in December 2009 we introduced a new work focused support for carers scheme and funding for replacement care.

Work focused support for carers provides adviser support and training opportunities for carers who did not already have access to employment programmes. We estimate that 4,000 carers a year will take part in work focused support for carers in addition to those already accessing support through new deal or pathways to work programmes.

Carers can have replacement care costs paid if they are taking part in training or attending interviews with advisers or employers as part of a return to work action plan. We estimate that 33,000 carers a year will request replacement care.

In the 12 weeks since work focused support for carers and replacement care funding started, 420 carers have attended a work focused support for carers initial interview. It is too early to report take up of replacement care.

Child Support Agency: Complaints

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints about the Child Support Agency were made to the independent case examiner in each of the last five years. [320881]

Helen Goodman: The number of complaints relating to the Child Support Agency received and accepted by the independent case examiner (ICE) in each of the last five years is contained in the following table.

	Number of complaints about the Child Support Agency received by ICE	*Number of complaints about the Child Support Agency accepted by ICE*
2005-06	3117	1348
2006-07	3951	1743
2007-08	3800	1644
2008-09	2964	1111
1 April 2009 to 31 January 2010	2317	851

The independent case examiner can accept only those complaints that fall within his jurisdiction, and only after the Child Support Agency has first had the opportunity to respond to them. Complaints addressed prematurely to the independent case examiner are redirected to the agency for resolution.

Children: Maintenance

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of absent parents resident in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Dundee, East constituency are currently being managed by the Child Support Agency. [319755]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 10 March 2010:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many cases of absent parents resident in (a) Scotland and (b) Dundee, East constituency are currently being managed by the Child Support Agency. [319755]

Latest figures available show as at December 2009, the number of cases in Scotland is 111,050; of these 2,120 are in the Parliamentary Constituency of Dundee, East. These figures include old scheme cases with a full or interim maintenance assessment as well as current scheme cases with a full maintenance calculation or default maintenance decision. Figures are adjusted to reflect those cases administered clerically.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the capacity of prime contractors to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* review the quality of service provided by sub-contractors; and whether she has made an assessment of the level of knowledge of each prime contractor of (i) Public Service Agreement 16 and (ii) personalisation. [319932]

Jim Knight: All DWP welfare to work contracts are procured through open and fair competition in accordance with public procurement policy and EU regulations. The criteria are published on the DWP website at the start of any competition, so that all potential bidders are aware of the basis on which the tenders will be evaluated.

As part of the tender evaluation process, we ask prime contractors to tell us how they will fully meet the varied needs of all customers, including where appropriate socially excluded customers such as those covered by PSA 16. In addition, we ask prime contractors to give details of all their sub-contractors in their tenders and we take into account the performance, skills and experience of the sub-contractors during the tender assessment process. In addition, we consider whether prime contractors and sub-contractors have robust performance management systems.

Post contract award DWP contractors are required to meet all of the quality and delivery standards set out in the contract specification, and are subject to ongoing monitoring by DWP Contract Managers. In addition to this, they are subject to independent quality inspection by Ofsted in England, Estyn in Wales and HM Inspectorate of Education in Scotland.

Departmental ICT

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department has spent on information technology in the last three financial years; how much was spent on *(a)* software development and testing, and *(b)* applications including (i) staff training, (ii) the cost of new hardware and software and (iii) the cost of launching into the live environment. [313373]

Jim Knight: The charging structure does not classify the constituent cost elements in the format requested. However application development figures were:

	£ million
2006-07	224
2007-08	258
2008-09	303

This enabled the development of new applications which are being used by DWP staff to improve customer service and streamline processes. The Department has a very strong track record in delivering major and complex change involving IT. Every project is subject to continuous rigorous scrutiny to ensure it fits with departmental strategy and delivers value for money.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information technology projects initiated by her Department and its agencies have been cancelled prior to completion in the last 12 months; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [320558]

Jim Knight: No IT projects have been cancelled prior to completion by the Department and its agencies in the last 12 months.

Directgov: Contracts

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which external contractors have been given contracts worth over £1 million for work on directgov; and how much has been spent on each contract excluding value added tax. [320716]

Jim Knight: Directgov has not placed any contracts for external contractors worth over £1 million.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of time was between a referral from Jobcentre Plus and the first appointment with a Pathways to Work provider for claimants of incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [319975]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 2 March 2010]*: Information on the length of time between a referral and the date when a provider conducts the first work-focused interview is not published and could be made available only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of employment and support allowance have been sanctioned in the latest period for which information is available; and what the monetary value was of those sanctions. [319977]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer on 2 March 2010]*: The Department does not publish data on the number of people who have been sanctioned who claim employment and support allowance; such data could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people were in receipt of *(a)* contributory employment and support allowance, *(b)* income-related employment and support allowance and *(c)* all types of employment and support allowance in each of the last six months; [319996]

(2) how many individuals were in receipt of *(a)* contributory employment and support allowance and *(b)* income-related employment and support allowance in each of the last four quarters; [319998]

(3) how many individuals were in receipt of employment and support allowance in each of the last six months. [319999]

Jonathan Shaw: The requested data are only available quarterly, not monthly. The available information is in the table.

Number of individuals in receipt of contributory and income-related employment and support allowance in the last four quarters

	November 2008	February 2009	May 2009	August 2009[1]
Contributory employment and support allowance	21,390	69,610	106,150	129,770
Income-related employment and support allowance	22,990	74,970	125,080	163,000
All types of employment and support allowance	53,770	175,810	288,270	374,440

[1] Provisional data.

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten
2. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2009.
3. The figures relating to employment support allowance have been thoroughly quality assured to National Statistics standard however it should be noted that this is a new benefit using a new data source which may not have reached steady state in terms of operational processing and retrospection. Hence most recent data shown are provisional.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Employment Schemes

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the relative levels of *(a)* personal service and *(b)* altruistic benefit offered by (i) third sector and small to medium-sized providers and (ii) large employment organisations under the Work Choice programme. [320770]

Jonathan Shaw: Work Choice is an ambitious and innovative programme and potential delivery organisations, from the public, private and third sectors, have been made fully aware of the clearly defined service requirements.

A crucial principle of the programme is the requirement to fully support the specific needs of individual customers and provide more opportunity for them to exercise choice and control. All Work Choice providers will have to deliver these key requirements. Robust and comprehensive quality assurance and continuous improvement systems are to be implemented and applied to ensure that they are met.

Employment Schemes: Part-time Employment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what specific targets Jobcentre Plus has to assist customers into part-time work; and if she will make a statement. [320157]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 3 March 2010]*: Jobcentre Plus is committed to helping all its customers into paid employment, both full-time and part-time. However, it does not have a target focused specifically on assisting customers into part-time work.

Grimsby

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Great Grimsby constituency, the effects of her Department's policies on that constituency since 1997. [320183]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP leads the Government's response to some of the biggest issues facing the country—welfare and pension reform—and is a key player in tackling child poverty[1]. As the biggest delivery department in the UK, DWP makes a difference to millions of people every day, helping them to lead safer, fairer and more rewarding lives that are free from poverty. We want to give people more choice and control over their lives and are committed to providing greater choice and personalised support to everyone who needs it so they have the opportunity to get into and remain in work. We believe that work works. Even in economically challenging times we know that work works for the most vulnerable and the disadvantaged.

Support to find work

Through Jobcentre Plus, we are promoting work as the best form of welfare for people of working age. Since January 1998, the number of people unemployed in Great Grimsby has increased by 8 per cent. to 4,704, but the number unemployed for more than one year has decreased by 37 per cent. to 745. From August 1997 to August 2009 the number of lone parents claiming income support in Great Grimsby has decreased by 15 per cent. to 1,950.

Our new deals have helped lone parents, the young unemployed, the long-term unemployed, disabled people, the over 50s and partners of unemployed people to move from benefit into work. Since their inception over 2.2 million people in Great Britain have found work with the support of the new deal, and 6,820 have been helped in Great Grimsby.

Support for children

We introduced a target to halve child poverty by 2010-11 on the way to eradicating it by 2020. Poverty is measured using a headline indicator of the proportion of children in households with an income below 60 per cent. of contemporary household median income before housing costs. This is in line with international best practice.

Statistics on the numbers of children living in poverty are not available at the constituency level.

Support for older people

Since 1997 our strategy has been to target help on the poorest pensioners while providing a solid foundation of support for all.

This year we will be spending over £13 billion more on pensioners than if we had continued with the policies that were in place in 1997. Around half of that money will go to the poorest third of pensioners.

In 1997 the poorest pensioners, who received income support, lived on £69 a week (£98 in today's prices). Today pension credit, which was introduced in 2003, means no pensioner needs to live on less than £130 a week, £198.45 for couples. As of August 2009 6,670 pensioners in Great Grimsby are benefiting from pension credit.

In 2007-08 there were 900,000 fewer pensioners living in relative poverty in UK compared to 1998-99 (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs).

Statistics on the proportion of pensioners living in relative poverty are not available at the constituency level. But the latest data for the Yorkshire and the Humber Government office region show that the proportion of pensioners in poverty (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs) fell from 32 per cent. to 18 per cent. since 1997[2].

Pensioners in the UK also benefit from a range of additional support such as the winter fuel payment which this winter is worth £250 for households with someone aged between 60 to 79 and £400 for households with someone aged 80 or over. These payments provide vital reassurance to older people that they can afford to turn up their heating during cold weather. Prior to winter 1997-98 less than £60 million per year was spent helping pensioners meet their fuel bills—we now spend around £2.7 billion on winter fuel payments alone. In winter 2008-09 (the last winter for which information is available) 16,720 people aged 60 and over benefited from winter fuel payments in Great Grimsby.

We have also taken steps to strengthen and protect the private pensions system to ensure people can continue to have confidence to save for their future through the establishment of the Pensions Protection Fund, the financial assistance scheme and a more powerful and proactive pensions regulator.

The protection system ensures that, unlike in 1997, people aren't left without a pension even in the event that their employer becomes insolvent.

In total 2,338 people in the Yorkshire and Humber Region are receiving compensation from the Pension Protection Fund (data not available at constituency level)[3].

We have also taken forward a radical package of pension reforms in the Pensions Acts of 2007 and 2008 which will deliver a fairer and more generous state pension and extend the opportunity of workplace pension saving to millions, many for the first time.

The state pension reforms begin to come into effect from 2010 and will mean around three quarters of women reaching state pension age in 2010 are expected to qualify for a full basic state pension compared to half without reform.

Support for disabled people and carers

Since 2001, we have significantly extended and improved civil rights for disabled people in areas such as employment, education, access to goods and services and transport. Disabled people in Great Grimsby will have benefited from these improvements. The Welfare Reform Act 2009 contains powers to increase choice and control for disabled adults, including disabled parents who are entitled to state support, enabling them to choose how certain state support is used to meet their individual needs. This will be trailblazed in eight local authority sites from late 2010. Older and less well off carers have gained extra help through the provisions within the National Carers Strategy.

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[1] The Department for Work and Pensions was created in 2001 and so information relates to the Department and its predecessors.

[2] Based on three-year averages and changes are rounded to the nearest percentage point or 100,000 pensioners between 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and 2005-06 to 2007-08.

[3] Regional information about assistance payments received by members from the financial assistance scheme could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Hotels

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in each of the last five years. [305657]

Jim Knight: The available information on hotel accommodation is set out in the following table. Other information is not available in the required format and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

	Hotel (all staff) (£ million)	*Hotel (Ministers) (£)*	*Hotels (Special advisers)*
2004-05	12.0	n/a	n/a
2005-06	12.3	n/a	n/a
2006-07	11.5	n/a	n/a
2007-08	11.6	£1,631	n/a
2008-09	12.3	£1,875	n/a

Expenditure by the Department on hotel accommodation needs to be seen in the context of a Department of over 100,000 staff operating from over 1,000 office locations across Great Britain.

All official travel within the Department is carried out in accordance with the requirements of both the Civil Service Management Code

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/documents/doc/CSMC_April08.doc

and departmental business travel policy, which enables staff to stay overnight in hotel accommodation when travelling on detached duty for business purpose.

Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively and the Cabinet Office provides the annual list of overseas travel over £500 undertaken by Ministers. The 2008-09 list was published on 16 July and can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

Jobseeker's Allowance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people have made a rapid reclaim for their jobseeker's allowance *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each London borough in each of the last 24 months; [318600]

(2) how many individuals have made *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four rapid reclaims for jobseeker's allowance (i) nationally and (ii) in each London borough in the last 24 months. [318601]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not available as the Department does not gather data specifically relating to the number of reclaims to jobseeker's allowance.

New Deal Schemes: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women resident in Hemsworth constituency have participated in the New Deal for *(a)* Lone Parents and *(b)* Partners since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [316620]

Helen Goodman: The available information can be found in the following table.

Number of woman participants in the New Deal in Hemsworth parliamentary constituency: Time Series to August 2009—Starters (Spells)

	Lone parents	*Partners*
1997	n/a	n/a
1998	10	n/a
1999	130	n/a
2000	210	n/a
2001	220	n/a
2002	240	n/a
2003	200	n/a
2004	290	10
2005	270	10
2006	200	10
2007	280	*
2008	430	10
2009	190	*

n/a = Not applicable.
"*" = Nil or negligible.
Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. Latest data are to August 2009.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

Pension Credit

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people transferred from claiming jobseeker's allowance to pension credit in each quarter since April 2008. [320803]

Helen Goodman: The information is not currently available, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

State Retirement Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 749W, on state retirement pensions: females, how many women have been contacted; how many women have received lump sums of backdated pension; how much has been paid in backdated pensions to date; and what estimate she has made of the amount which will have been paid out by the end of the exercise. [319461]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* In the period up to 18 February 2010, 5,487 women have been contacted and 1,544 women have received lump sums of backdated pension, totalling £1,018,782.80.

We are not yet able to give an estimate of the amount which will have been paid by the end of the exercise.

Winter Fuel Payments

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households with more than *(a)* £100,000 and *(b)* £200,000 annual income received a winter fuel payment in the most recent year for which figures are available. [320313]

Angela Eagle: Information on household income and receipt of winter fuel payments are available from the Family Resources Survey, for which 2007-08 is the latest year available. Estimates have been presented rounded to the nearest 100,000 households.

(a) In 2007-08, winter fuel payments were made to around 100,000 households with net income before housing costs of more than £100,000 per annum.

(b) In 2007-08, winter fuel payments were made to a negligible number of households with net income before housing costs of more than £200,000 per annum.

The figures are survey based, so there is a degree of sampling error. In 2007-08, winter fuel payments were made to around 9 million households. As such, the number of winter fuel payments made to households containing pensioners with net income before housing costs of more than £100,000 per annum represents 1 per cent. of these payments, while the number paid to those over £200,000 remains negligible.

Work Capability Assessment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of medical assessments for *(a)* employment and support allowance and *(b)* incapacity benefit claimants carried out by Atos Origin in Wales in each of the last five years were conducted by doctors who had completed their formal medical training and were registered with the General Medical Council; [320042]

(2) how many and what proportion of medical assessments for *(a)* employment and support allowance and *(b)* incapacity benefit claimants carried out by Atos Origin in Wales in each of the last five years were conducted by medically trained professionals registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. [320041]

Jonathan Shaw: All healthcare professionals, consisting of doctors and nurses, employed by Atos Healthcare are registered with the relevant council, namely the General Medical Council or the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*		*2009*	
	IB	*IB*	*IB*	*ESA*	*IB*	*ESA*	*IB*
Total examinations	36,237	34,941	41,267	167	47,907	23,958	22,949
Examinations by doctor	36,237	34,941	41,267	148	44,905	18,678	20,428
Percentage examinations by doctor	100	100	100	89	94	78	89
Examinations by nurse	0	0	0	19	3,002	5,280	2,521
Percentage examinations by nurse	0	0	0	11	6	22	11

Notes
Figures have been provided by Atos Healthcare. ESA was introduced in 2008.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Buildings: Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of all domestic properties on the Domestic EPC Register have Band *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* C, *(d)* D, *(e)* E, *(f)* F and *(g)* G ratings. [316814]

Mr. Ian Austin: The number and proportion of properties on the Domestic EPC Register by rating band as of 8 February is:

Rating band	*Number of lodgements*	*Percentage of lodgements*
New construction dwellings		
A	743	0.24
B	180,289	57.98
C	89,271	28.71
D	25,153	8.09
E	4,544	1.46
F	629	0.20
G	147	0.05
Existing dwellings		
A	530	0.01
B	192,376	4.96
C	1,004,178	25.90
D	1,367,575	35.28
E	821,849	21.20
F	266,436	6.87
G	80,286	2.07

Empty Property: Tyne and Wear

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty property management orders have been *(a)* applied for and *(b)* issued by (i) Newcastle upon Tyne council, (ii) Gateshead council, (iii) South Tyneside council and (iv) North Tyneside council to date. [321118]

Mr. Ian Austin: In total 29 interim empty dwelling management orders have been issued to date. A residential property tribunal authorised the issue of one interim empty dwelling management order by South Tyneside council in March 2009. Information on how many empty property management orders have been applied for is not held centrally.

Housing: Sales

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of houses auctioned following default on mortgage payments have been bought by individuals or companies associated with the defaulter in the last 12 months. [321046]

Mr. Ian Austin: This information is not held by Communities and Local Government.

Markets

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on implementing the proposals in the Government response to the Ninth Report of the Communities and Local Government Committee, Session 2008-09, on Market Failure?: Can the traditional markets survive?, HC 308-I. [320851]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are taking action to support retail markets in recognition of the significant economic and social benefits they can create. Since the Committee's report was published, I have been appointed Minister for Markets and CLG has assumed the strategic lead within Government for markets in England. An inter-departmental working group has also been established to look at the issues affecting markets and has agreed a future work programme to address the Select Committee's recommendations.

Multiple Occupation

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the current definition is of a house in multiple occupation (HMO) for the purposes of *(a)* assessment of housing stock, *(b)* licensing and *(c)* planning permission; what change is planned for each of these definitions; and how many HMOs of each definition in each region (i) there were in each of the last five years and (ii) there are projected to be in (A) 2010-11 and (B) 2011-12. [321347]

John Healey: The definition of a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) for housing purposes is contained in section 254 of the Housing Act 2004. An HMO is an entire house or flat which is let to three or more tenants who form two or more households and who share a kitchen, bathroom or toilet. Local authorities are under a statutory duty to license HMOs of three or more storeys housing five or more persons forming two or more households. There are no planned changes to the Housing Act 2004 definition of a HMO.

Currently planning legislation neither defines 'multiple occupation' nor HMOs as such but relies on the concept of a 'single household' and a 'family' in making distinctions for land use purposes. HMOs are unclassified by the Use Classes Order (UCO) and are therefore sui generis. Therefore as a general rule planning permission will be needed before a dwelling house could undergo a material change of use to a HMO. The current UCO uses six persons as its 'trigger' point.

My statement of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 54WS, announced our intention to introduce a specific definition of a HMO into the UCO. This will be the same as that included in section 254 of the Housing Act 2004 with some minor amendments to reflect planning concerns.

The following table shows the estimated number of HMOs in the last five years. The changes I have announced will not be retrospective.

The Department does not hold information on the projected numbers of HMOs for 2010-11 and 2011-12.

	HMOs on 1 April				
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
North East	8,000	9,000	13,000	12,000	10,000
North West	54,000	54,000	52,000	50,000	50,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	26,000	28,000	29,000	29,000	32,000
East Midlands	15,000	18,000	23,000	24,000	24,000

	HMOs on 1 April				
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
West Midlands	19,000	17,000	18,000	17,000	18,000
East of England	16,000	17,000	23,000	22,000	33,000
London	154,000	138,000	126,000	113,000	146,000
South East	65,000	64,000	66,000	61,000	61,000
South West	35,000	39,000	41,000	44,000	39,000
England	392,000	385,000	390,000	373,000	412,000

Note:
Estimated figures for 2005 and 2006 may be of lower quality than those for subsequent years as from 2007 the definition of what should be included in the HMO count was changed to specify that local authorities should include licensed and registered HMOs.
Source:
The Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA)

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications to change the use of *(a)* a property to a house in multiple occupation and *(b)* a house in multiple occupation to a C3 class dwelling have been (i) made and (ii) granted in each region in each of the last five years. [321348]

Mr. Ian Austin: My Department does not hold this information.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to bring forward the secondary legislation on houses in multiple occupation referred to in the written ministerial statement of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 54-6W, on planning. [321350]

John Healey: The Order amending the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, which will create the HMO use class, was made on 8 March 2010.

The Order amending the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995, which will make a change from a HMO to a C3 dwelling house permitted development, was also made on 8 March and will be laid before Parliament by 15 March 2010.

Both amendments will come into effect on 6 April 2010.

Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 605W, on non-domestic rates, how much was paid in each type of fee by those appealing against their rateable values in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09. [321345]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

There are no fees payable to valuation officers for making proposals challenging rateable values. Nor are there hearing fees payable should the proposal become an appeal to the valuation tribunal for England.

Planning Obligations

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the *(a)* amount and *(b)* proportion of funding under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 that has been spent in (i) Aylesbury, (ii) Brighton, (iii) Darlington, (iv) Derby, (v) Exeter, (vi) Lancaster, (vii) Birmingham, (viii) Manchester, (ix) Bristol, (x) Cambridge, (xi) the West Midlands and (xii) England in each of the last five years. [321419]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on monies collected by local authorities in this way is not held centrally. However, the Department for Communities and Local Government has produced research reports into the value of planning obligations in England for 2003-04 and 2005-06 based on a sample of authorities across the country. These reports are available on the Department's website. New research covering 2007-08 has been commissioned and will be published shortly.

Social Rented Housing: Construction

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of additional affordable homes for rent required to be supplied in order to meet the level of demand in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [321421]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Secretary of State does not make estimates for the provision of affordable housing. However funding is being made available to enable delivery.

In England, total investment of £7.5 billion over this year and next, including the Housing Pledge of £1.5 billion, will deliver 112,000 affordable homes over the two years 2009 to 2011.

In the West Midlands funding of £576.7 million will deliver 15,706, of which a sum of £116.3 million is identified for Birmingham to provide 2,906 affordable homes over the period 2008-12.

Future levels of funding and delivery beyond 2010 will be dependent on the next spending review.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* local authority and *(b)* registered social landlord homes were built in (i) Birmingham, (ii) the West Midlands and (iii) England in each of the last five years; and what his latest estimate is of the numbers that will be built in each of the next three years. [321422]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on the number of local authority and registered social landlord homes build in Birmingham, the West Midlands and England, is shown on a financial year basis in Live Table 253 on the Communities and Local Government website at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1474276.xls

Information on planned housing is available in "Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks".

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Counter-terrorism: International Co-operation

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* European, *(b)* NATO and *(c)* US counterparts on further measures to (i) tackle the funding of terrorist organisations and (ii) apprehend members of terrorist organisations. [321460]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have frequent discussions with international partners and organisations on tackling the funding of terrorist organisations and increasing our collective ability to take action against their members. We are committed to meeting our UN obligations under UN Security Council Resolution 1904 on combating the funding of international terrorism, and to a comprehensive approach using a range of tools to disrupt and prosecute terrorist activity, including through asset freezes and travel bans.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 598W, on departmental public expenditure, what estimate he has made of the effects of exchange rate movements on the level of funding required to meet the cost of the Government's commitments in relation to *(a)* international subscriptions and *(b)* peacekeeping activities in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [319675]

David Miliband: The information requested is as follows:

International Subscriptions

We amend our forecasts for the costs of the UK's international subscriptions throughout the year, both to take account of exchange rate movements and as we negotiate the budgets for each organisation for the year ahead (a number of international organisations, including the United Nations (UN) and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), agree budgets for calendar years rather than the UK financial year). As payments are made in the local currency of each organisation at different times of the year, and as the effect of exchange rate movements is only one of the factors in our forecasts for these payments, it is not possible to calculate the effect of exchange rate movements alone on the changes to the forecast since my response of 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 598W, without incurring disproportionate cost. Our overall aim is to negotiate and limit any proposed increases to zero real growth in local currency terms for each organisation.

I have provided below our latest forecasts for the overall costs of international subscriptions. These forecasts remain subject to change in the light of continuing exchange rate movements.

(i) 2009-10

The current forecast cost of the UK's international subscriptions in 2009-10 is £175 million, an update on the forecast cost of £193 million quoted in my response of 26 March 2009.

As I explained in my response of 26 March 2009, for international subscriptions the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has a cost-sharing agreement with HM Treasury (HMT) where HMT will cover 60 per cent. of the additional funds required over £102 million. Therefore the forecast cost to the FCO of the UK's international subscriptions in 2009-10 is £131 million.

The change in this forecast since my 26 March 2009 response is due to successful FCO negotiations to limit the growth of the UK's contributions, including to the UN, combined with exchange rate movements over that period. (My response of 26 March 2009 quoted forecasts made before final UK contributions were agreed with NATO and the UN for calendar year 2010.) The cost sharing agreement with HMT means that 40 per cent. of the saving benefits the FCO's budget.

(ii) 2010-11

The forecast cost for international subscriptions in 2010-11 is £178 million. Based on the agreement with HMT, the FCO's share of this forecast cost is £132 million. This forecast is likely to change as a result of exchange rate movements and the renegotiation of subscriptions as they come up for renewal.

Peacekeeping

(i) 2009-10

The assessed peacekeeping costs in 2009-10 are forecast to be £375 million, an update on the forecast cost of £456 million quoted in my 26 March 2009 response. The change in this forecast is due to savings achieved by the FCO through negotiations in international forums, in particular at the UN in June 2009, as well as exchange rate movements since March 2009. We currently estimate that these exchange rate movements will account for around £9 million of the savings on the previous forecast, subject to final payments which are yet to be made.

Under current arrangements, the first £374 million of assessed peacekeeping costs are met by HMT. Costs above that and, since April 2009, non-assessed peacekeeping costs as well, are borne by the FCO, the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development from the conflict pools and/or from within departmental expenditure limits.

(ii) 2010-11

As my response of 26 March 2009 noted in relation to 2009-10 costs, UN peacekeeping assessed costs for 2010-11 will not be agreed by the UN General Assembly until June 2010. We are finalising peacekeeping budget arrangements for 2010-11 and will announce these in due course.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff his Department and its agencies have appointed who were later discovered to be illegal immigrants since 2005. [320444]

Chris Bryant: My Department has no record of having employed an illegal immigrant in the last five years.

All Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff have to be British citizens and all individuals employed by the FCO (whether staff or not) are required to satisfy requirements on identity, nationality and immigration status prior to the offer of employment.

Maldives: Religious Freedom

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest assessment is of the level of religious freedom in the Maldives. [321193]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Under the terms of its constitution Maldives is an Islamic country, requiring all Maldivian citizens to be Muslims. Under Maldivian law non-Muslims are forbidden from practising their religion publically. President Mohamed Nasheed has made public his commitment to ensuring that Maldives fulfils its international obligations on human rights. Since he was elected in October 2008, there has been welcome progress in areas such as media freedom and freedom of expression. But there are still some areas where progress can be made, particularly in regards to religious freedom. We continue to encourage his Government to make further progress on this as soon as possible.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Wellingborough of 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 713W, when she plans to provide an update on the lessons learned from her visit to the Vancouver 2010 winter Olympics to the All Party Parliamentary Group of Trafficking of Women and Children. [321386]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 9 March 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 657.

While in Vancouver, I had a number of meetings with a range of Government, police and non-governmental representatives on the risk of an increase in human trafficking associated with the Olympic games. As previously agreed I will write to the parties concerned, including the All Party Parliamentary Group on Trafficking of Women and Children, in due course.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood (Mr. Hurd) of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 103W, on departmental marketing, how much his Department has spent on advertising, marketing, public relations and publicity in relation to the *(a)* Real Help Now and *(b)* Building Britain's Future themed campaign to date. [320464]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office helped with the production of a Real Help Now document for Scotland. This was published to coincide with the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow for the first time last April. Ministers have also supported a number of meetings and events in Scotland to help promote the Real Help that is available and the initiatives included in Building Britain's Future. The Scotland Office has incurred no advertising, marketing, public relations or publicity costs in relation to this.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Gary Whattley

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent progress has been made by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in its investigation into the death of Gary Whattley in Belfast on 4 November 2005. [321062]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the chief constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Independent International Commission on Decommissioning: Expenditure

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning has spent under each main category of expenditure in each year since its inception. [321190]

Paul Goggins: Sponsorship of the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD) is shared by both the British and Irish Governments, with costs shared on an equal basis. The figures in the following table show the British proportion of such costs.

Due to the nature of the recording of expenditure, available records on IICD specifically are held only from 2002-03. To determine cost beyond that period would incur disproportionate cost.

£

	Salary costs	*Other costs*	*Total*
2009-10[1]	364,862	497	365,359
2008-09	414,099	1,225	415,324
2007-08	356,554	1,704	358,258
2006-07	316,720	2,094	318,814
2005-06	367,652	1,737	369,389
2004-05	373,417	2,461	375,878
2003-04	275,678	1,051	276,729
2002-03	617,370	559	617,929

[1] Figures correct as of 5 March 2010.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biofuels: Boilers

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the Government's proposals for maximum *(a)* particulate and *(b)* nitrogen oxide emissions from biomass boilers on progress towards meeting air quality standards targets in those areas where such targets have not already been met. [321486]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The European Commission has accepted that with the exception of London, the UK is on track to achieve limit values for coarse particulate matter, PM_{10}, by 2011 at the latest. In relation to London, the Government are working with the Mayor to provide the necessary assurances to the Commission as soon as possible. Action to ensure that the PM_{10} limit values are maintained, and progress is made towards fine particle $PM_{2.5}$ targets, includes ongoing work to assess the impact of biomass boilers.

For nitrogen dioxide, NO_2, a package of measures is currently being developed to address exceedences, taking account of changes in the energy sector as we move towards a low carbon economy. Assessment of the impact of these measures on NO_2 concentrations is currently on-going. Road transport sources are the main contributor to exceedences of ambient air quality limit values for this pollutant.

Fair Trade Initiative

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contribution his Department has made to Fairtrade Fortnight. [320952]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA did not make any specific contribution to Fairtrade Fortnight but supports the ongoing work of Department for International Development (DFID) which is leading for the Government in this area, and the contribution that this makes to international sustainable development. DFID officials took part in a number of events and awareness-raising efforts throughout Fairtrade Fortnight, and DFID has committed £12 million to expanding Fairtrade globally.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff his Department and its agencies have appointed who were later discovered to be illegal immigrants since 2005. [320443]

Dan Norris: People employed to work in Government Departments and their agencies, either directly or through a contractor, are required to satisfy requirements on identity, nationality and immigration status prior to the offer of employment.

My Department has no record of having employed an illegal immigrant in the last five years.

Oils: Waste Disposal

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of waste oils which is regenerated into lubricant oil; [320712]

(2) what recent assessment his Department has made of capacity for waste oil regeneration. [320736]

Dan Norris: Approximately 350,000 tonnes of waste oils require treatment in the UK annually.

In 2008, the latest year for which data are available, 50,000 tonnes of waste oil was regenerated into lubricant oils. 6,500 tonnes wasexported to the EU for oil refining or other uses of waste oil.

Of the original 350,000 tonnes of waste oil, it is estimated that up to approximately 250,000 tonnes could be potentially suitable for regeneration. Currently there is one waste regeneration plant operating with a capacity for processing 50,000 tonnes per annum. In addition it is estimated that 20,000 tonnes of waste oil per annum are subject to laundering (cleaning).

Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Stroud constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [321476]

Dan Norris: Due to the broad nature of the question and the wide range of DEFRA policies implemented in Stroud, it [illegible] possible to provide a detailed answer in the form requested.

Stroud is obliged through statute to comply with central Government legislation. DEFRA's policy responsibilities are summarised in its departmental strategic objectives (DSOs) that have been agreed with the Treasury:

To promote a society that is adapting to the effects of climate change, through a national programme of action and a contribution to international action.

To promote a healthy, resilient, productive and diverse natural environment.

To promote sustainable, low carbon and resource efficient patterns of consumption and production.

To promote an economy and a society that are resilient to environmental risk.

To champion sustainable development.

To promote a thriving farming and food sector with an improving net environmental impact.

To encourage a sustainable, secure and healthy food supply.

To provide socially and economically sustainable rural communities.

To be a respected department delivering efficient and high quality services and outcomes.

DEFRA publishes annual departmental reports which set out progress against its Public Service Agreement targets and DSOs. The 2009 report is available at:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/how/deprep/2009-report.htm

Past reports are available online in the National Archives.

For information on a specific DEFRA policy in Stroud, the Government Office for the South West is able to provide information on implementation and the benefits to the area.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 745W, on waste disposal: fees and charges, who responded to each of the consultations referred to. [319745]

Dan Norris: The list of respondents for the Consultation on the Incentives for Recycling by Households, May 2007, can be found in the summary of responses:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy/incentives/documents/incentives-responses-summary2007.pdf

The respondents to the informal consultation on the draft guidance in June 2008 were:

Local Authority Recycling Committee
Association of Charity Shops
Birmingham City Council
ESRC BRASS Centre, Cardiff University
GMB Union
Campaign for Real Recycling
Chartered Institution of Wastes Management
Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority
Norfolk County Council
Waste Watch
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
County Surveyors Society
Hampshire County Council
Absorbent Hygiene Products Manufacturers Association
Bromsgrove Borough Council
Coventry City Council
South Gloucestershire County Council
London Borough of Sutton
Five responses were from private individuals

The list of respondents to the formal consultation on statutory Good Recycling Service guidance, September 2008, can be found in the summary of responses:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy/incentives/documents/summary-consultation-responses.pdf

WALES

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* disciplinary and *(b)* capability procedures have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed in his Department in each of the last five years; how much time on average was taken to complete each type of procedure in each such year; how many and what proportion of his Department's staff were subject to each type of procedure in each such year; and how many and what proportion of each type of procedure resulted in the dismissal of the member of staff. [320622]

Mr. Hain: Only a very small number of staff have been subject to disciplinary and capability procedures (including dismissal) and therefore the actual numbers cannot be provided without compromising staff confidentiality in what is a small office of 60 people. We do not routinely collect information on the amount of time spent on these procedures.

Departmental Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [320538]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has not provided coaching in any foreign language to either Ministers or staff in the last 12 months.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood (Mr. Hurd) of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 103W, on departmental marketing, how much his Department has spent on advertising, marketing, public relations and publicity in relation to the *(a)* Real Help Now and *(b)* Building Britain's Future themed campaign to date. [320463]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office spent £2,151 on the printing of Real Help for Wales Now booklets, but has committed no expenditure on Building Britain's Future themed campaigns.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which companies his Department used for providing temporary staff in 2008-09; how many temporary staff were employed in that year; and what the monetary value of contracts with each such company was. [320291]

Mr. Hain: In 2008-09 we used Acorn Recruitment Agency for one member of staff at a cost of £2,365.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff of each grade in his Department spent on first class travel in the last 12 months. [320396]

Mr. Hain: In the last 12 months the following amounts have been spent on first class travel on official business:

	£
Ministers	12,136
Senior Civil Servants	16,817
Grade 6	21,633
Grade 7	11,818
SEO	34,343
H	1,277
EO	783

As the Wales Office operates on split sites both in Cardiff and London, Ministers and staff need to travel between offices in the conduct of their duties.

All official travel by Ministers and Civil Servants is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code.

Economic Situation

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues and the Welsh Assembly Government on the economy in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [320832]

Mr. Hain: I have had regular discussions with both ministerial colleagues and Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on the economy in Wales, including through the National Economic Council and the All Wales Economic Summits, and will continue to do so.

The action taken both in Westminster and in Wales has helped Wales to exit the recession and move towards economic recovery: action that has ensured that there are still 95,000 more people in work in Wales than there were in 1997.

As we look to the future we remain confident but cautious, and will continue to support long-term sustainable growth and provide targeted economic support—to withdraw this now would put the recovery at risk.

Trade Unions

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many days staff of his Department spent on trade union activity in the latest year for which figures are available; and what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of such activity. [320669]

Mr. Hain: In line with the ACAS code of practice "Time off for Trades Union Duties and Activities", the trade union representative has spent around 1.5 days on trade union activity in the last current financial year to date. The estimated accumulative cost is around £150.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Concessions

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps he is taking to ensure the continuing availability of discretionary travel arrangements in rural areas for *(a)* elderly and *(b)* disabled persons; and if he will make a statement. [320979]

Mr. Khan: Travel concession authorities in England have the freedom to offer discretionary travel concessions to their older and disabled residents. Local authorities are best placed to know about local needs and circumstances. These enhancements are not part of the statutory minimum and must be funded from an authority's own resources.

After the planned shift of responsibility for concessionary travel administration from lower tier to upper tier local authorities from April 2011, it will be the responsibility of upper tier local authorities to provide discretionary travel concessions for their older and disabled residents. This change will not prevent upper tier authorities from maintaining or introducing local-level discretions, for example where there are differing needs within different parts of a county boundary (such local schemes could for example operate at a district level).

Cycling

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the annual amount spent per head of population in *(a)* Aylesbury, *(b)* Brighton, *(c)* Darlington, *(d)* Derby, *(e)* Exeter, *(f)* Lancaster, *(g)* Birmingham, (h) Manchester, *(i)* Bristol, *(j)* Cambridge, *(k)* the West Midlands and *(l)* England to encourage cycling in each of the last five years. [321418]

Mr. Khan: The four main streams of Departmental funding to encourage cycling in England are local transport plan funding, "cycle city and town" funding, links to school funding and cycle training grants.

Local Transport Plan funding

This funding is not ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities. It is not possible to calculate funding on cycling by head of population.

Cycle City and Town funding

The Department funds 18 cycle city and towns. Funding for the first six cycle demonstration towns between 2005 and 2010-11 is £5 per head annually and for the second round of cycle city and towns between 2008 and 2010-11 at £8 per head annually. These figures relate to the cycle town area, which may not always be the same as the local authority. In some cases, towns have bid for additional funding.

Links to schools

The Department funds links to school to encourage cycling and walking to schools. As these are linked to individual schools, it is not meaningful to relate this to annual funding per head of population.

Cycle training grants

Local authorities apply for grants to train school children in Bikeability level 2. Bikeability level 2 is an approved cycle training course normally undertaken by children in years five to six (ages 10-11). The grants are awarded by the number of children the authority proposes to train for the funding year with a maximum grant of £40 per child, additional to those they propose to train from their own funding. The Department keeps no record of local authorities which fund cycle training from their own funds.

Government Car and Despatch Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 188W, on the Government Car and Despatch Agency, from which departments *(a)* complaints relating to relief drivers and *(b)* other complaints were received. [319827]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 1 March 2010]*: The Government Car and Despatch Agency monitors formal complaints through its ISO 9001 procedures. In the past two years there have been 17 recorded complaints, eight of which refer specifically to the provision of relief drivers. Records are not retained beyond two years.

Complaints relating to 'relief drivers' were received from the following Departments:

Department	*Number of complaints*
Communities and Local Government	1
Department for Children, Schools and Families	1
Department for International Development	2

Department	*Number of complaints*
Department of Energy and Climate Change	1
Home Office	2
Ministry of Defence	1

'Other' complaints were received from the following Departments:

Department	*Number of complaints*
Cabinet Office	1
Department for Innovation and Skills	1
Department for International Development	1
Department for Work and Pensions	1
Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs	1
Home Office	2
Ministry of Justice	1
Serious Organised Crime Agency	1

The Customer Satisfaction survey conducted each year invites customers to identify areas for service improvement. The provision of relief drivers is one of those areas identified.

This information amends the figures given for formal complaints in my answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 188W, which following subsequent enquiries has proved to be incomplete.

Nuclear Submarines

Angus Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions the Marine and Coastguard Agency has had with the Ministry of Defence on *(a)* the end of service of Nimrod MR2 and *(b)* a replacement fixed wing long-range search and rescue asset; and if he will make a statement. [321299]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 9 March 2010]:* Senior Coastguard Officers were informed by the Ministry of Defence about the withdrawal of the Nimrod MR2 prior to the announcement on 15 December, and on the alternative defence assets that might be provided to fill the UK's long range Search and Rescue requirements.

The Nimrod MR2 will be replaced by the substantially more capable Nimrod MRA4. The MRA4 production programme remains unchanged, but the aircraft will be introduced into service at a slower rate as part of a package of key adjustments to the Defence programme announced on 15 December last year.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what *(a)* recent meetings he has had with and *(b)* representations he has received from representatives of (I) the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, (ii) the shipping industry and (iii) the offshore oil and gas industry on the withdrawal of Nimrod MR2 for search and rescue duties. [321309]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 9 March 2010]:* I have not had any meetings with, or representations from, any of these bodies regarding the withdrawal of Nimrod MR2 for search and rescue duties.

Railways: Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many people have been convicted of offences related to *(a)* creating danger by causing anything to be in the road, or interfering with a vehicle or traffic equipment, *(b)* causing danger to road users, *(c)* endangering railway passengers and *(d)* trespassing on a railway in each year since 1998. [317760]

Chris Mole: The available figures are set out in the following table. In interpreting them it should be noted that:

(1) The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal ones for which they were dealt with. When a defendant is found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same penalty is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the statutory maximum penalty is the highest.

(2) Every effort has been made to ensure that the figures are accurate and complete. However, they have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. Care should therefore be taken to ensure the inevitable limitations of data collection processes are taken into account when the figures are used.

(3) Staffordshire police were able to provide only sample data for 2000. These figures have been excluded from the table.

(4) No data were available for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July or August 2008.

Offence	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Creating danger by causing anything to be in the road	77	94	88	93	95	93	123	129	93	110	126
Endangering passengers on the railway	23	23	23	20	36	32	23	30	28	39	25
Trespassing on the railway	1853	1505	1445	2316	2647	2685	3301	3742	5041	5298	2571

Roads: Costs

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the cost of laying one mile of *(a)* sound-absorbing and *(b)* conventional asphalt road surface. [321278]

Chris Mole: A recent cost estimate of laying one mile of sound absorbing road surface material ranges between £50,000 and £65,000 per lane, depending on the specific proprietary material used. The equivalent cost for laying conventional surface material is approximately £85,000. Hot Rolled Asphalt is now only used in exceptional circumstances. These costs do not allow for the traffic management and other preparatory works that may be needed prior to surfacing on existing roads, which will typically increase by two to three times the figures above.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Robert Key: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect on roads in England of the recent severe weather conditions; and what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Highways Agency and *(b)* local highway authorities on filling potholes and repairing carriageways. [320756]

Mr. Khan: The maintenance of local roads in England is a matter for each local highway authority. It is for each individual authority to assess which parts of its network are in need of repair and what standards should be applied, based upon their local knowledge.

This Department endorses Well Maintained Highways, the code of practice for highway maintenance published by the UK Roads Liaison Group (UKRLG). The code of practice is available free on the UKRLG website:

www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org

The code advises local authorities to establish an inspection regime for their highways, and recommends inspection intervals for the various categories of highways.

The Local Government Association have written to the Department requesting that funding be provided to local authorities to repair damage that they consider was caused by the 2009-10 winter. 13 authorities have also formally raised this issue. The Department is considering this matter.

The Highways Agency is responsible for the maintenance of the strategic road network in England. The Agency has a road maintenance programme to ensure that carriageway maintenance is carried out at the optimum time, to minimise deterioration in the condition of the road and damage caused by severe weather, while delivering value for money.

It is inevitable however that the recent severe weather will, in a small number of locations, cause a deterioration in the road surface condition. The Highways Agency does not however separately identify or estimate the additional maintenance costs directly associated with severe weather. The Agency's experience is that such costs are likely to reflect only a relatively minor part of the overall maintenance expenditure. Safety related defects such as potholes are treated promptly as part of the Agency's maintenance policy.

The Department, the Highways Agency and local authorities together with the Devolved Administrations, through the UKRLG, consider the need for research and development of guidance and policy on all aspects of road maintenance. The Highways Agency and local authorities also meet with material suppliers to identify the need for new materials and the evaluation and performance of existing pavement materials, including those used for repairs.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 208W, on roads: snow and ice, how many tonnes of salt have been bought from overseas suppliers in each of the last 12 years. [320822]

Mr. Khan: The Highways Agency does not purchase salt directly. This is the responsibility of its contracted service providers, as part of their routine requirement to deliver the winter service to keep the strategic network safe and open during severe winter weather. Consequently the Highways Agency does not keep records on where its service providers have purchased salt and cannot therefore confirm if any overseas salt has been purchased during the last 12 years. Notwithstanding this, as a result of the national salt shortages experienced over the last two winters, the Highways Agency has helped facilitate the importation of overseas salt to its service providers. In 2008-09 season, the Highways Agency helped to import approximately 58,000 tonnes of salt from overseas sources, with a further 127,000 tonnes imported in the 2009-10 winter season.

The sourcing of salt for winter service on local roads is a matter for the local authorities concerned. Information on imports is not collected centrally.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 208W, on roads: snow and ice, which companies are contracted to deliver the Highways Agency's routine and winter service; what activities are included within these contracts; and how much his Department spent annually on each contract in the last year for which information available. [320834]

Mr. Khan: The Highways Agency provides its routine and winter services through two main contract mechanisms:

1. Managing Agent Contractors.
2. Design build finance and operate and private finance initiative.

Managing Agent Contractors

The Managing Agent Contractors who are currently contracted by the Highways Agency to deliver routine and winter services are listed as follows:

AccordMP (Joint venture)
Amey
Amey Mouchel (Amey/Mouchel)
A-ONE+ (Colas/Halcrow/Costain)
A-ONE Integrated Highways Services (Halcow and Colas)
Atkins Ltd.
Balfour Beatty/Mott MacDonald
Carillion/WSP
Enterprisemouchel (Accord/Enterprise and Mouchel)
InterRoute (Raynesway/Mott MacDonald/Serco)

Generic activities included in these managing agent contractors contracts are:

Routine maintenance which includes pothole repairs, street lighting maintenance, cyclical tasks such as cutting grass verges, gully emptying and litter picking, response and repairs following collisions or spillages, periodic inspections of the condition of road surfaces and structures and identifying the need for planned maintenance;

Winter maintenance including the spreading of road salt, snow clearance and maintenance of the equipment used for those tasks; and

Planned maintenance which includes road surfacing, strengthening and replacement of structures such as tunnels and bridges and minor improvements to the network.

In 2008-09, the last year for which information is available, the Highways Agency spent £327.6 million on routine maintenance, £40.6 million on winter maintenance and £493.4 million on planned maintenance through managing agent contractors contracts.

The provision of the routine and winter maintenance service is tendered as a fixed price "lump sum" activity in the individual contracts. The agency does not disclose contract specific spend information as this could prejudice the contractors' commercial interest and thereby undermine fair competition.

Design build finance and operate and private finance initiative contracts

These contracts apply to certain specific routes and typically incorporate provision of significant improvements to the network together with maintenance over a prolonged period (generally 30 years). These companies are listed as follows:

Design build finance and operate

Autolink Concessionaires (A19) Ltd.

Connect A30/A35 Ltd.

Connect A50 Ltd.

Connect M1-A1 Ltd.

Connect Plus Services (CPS)

Road Link (A69) Ltd.

Road Management Services (Darrington) Ltd

Road Management Services (Gloucester) Ltd.

Road Management Services (Peterborough) Ltd.

Sheppey Route Ltd. c/o Carillion Highway Maintenance

UK Highways M40 Ltd.

Private finance initiative

Midland Expressway

Severn River Crossing plc

The routine and winter maintenance costs within these contracts are not included in the 2008-09 spend figures given above. The payment mechanisms on these contracts are such that it would not be possible for the Highways Agency to abstract the routine and winter maintenance costs.

Rolling Stock

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans he has to provide additional diesel trains for rail services in the North of England. [321083]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has agreed with Northern Rail that 10 diesel vehicles formerly deployed on the Oldham Loop will be used to lengthen certain train services. Discussions with Northern and East Midlands Trains are in progress with a view to providing further additional diesel vehicles on trains serving northern cities.

Thameslink Railway Line

Patrick Hall: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the overall increase in capacity which will result from implementation of the Thameslink Programme. [321210]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport's current forecasts indicate that, on completion, the Thameslink Programme will increase the capacity of train services into the central London section of the Thameslink route by over 30,000 seats in each peak period.

TREASURY

Banks: Loans

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information *(a)* Royal Bank of Scotland and *(b)* Halifax Bank of Scotland provided to his Department on 6 to 7 October 2008 on the extent of their holdings of sub-prime assets. [321044]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In October 2008 HM Treasury announced comprehensive measures to ensure the stability of the financial system including capital investments in the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), Halifax Bank of Scotland (HBOS) and Lloyds TSB totaling £37 billion.

Ahead of this announcement the Tripartite Authorities (HM Treasury, the Financial Services Authority and the Bank of England) collected relevant information in line with their memorandum of understanding.

Detailed information on assets is a matter for each company's management to disclose in their audited annual report and accounts, in accordance with market disclosure requirements.

Civil Servants: Relocation

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the implementation of recommendations made by Sir Michael Lyons in his review of public sector relocation. [321241]

Mr. Byrne: Ministers held conversations during the initial implementation of Sir Michael Lyons' recommendations resulting in departmental relocation targets being established. Departments have made good progress towards these targets and PBR 2009 announced that nearly 21,000 civil service posts had been relocated out of London and the south east.

Treasury Ministers regularly meet ministerial colleagues at other Departments to discuss many topics, including the implementation of Sir Michael Lyons' recommendations.

Departmental Paper

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* brands of (i) paper and (ii) paper products his Department uses; and what his Department's policy is on the procurement of those materials. [320023]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury's policy is to purchase paper and paper products that meet or exceed the Buy Sustainable—Quick Wins standards. In 2008-09 the Treasury bought copier paper from the following suppliers:

From Office Depot

Niceday A4 80gsm 80 per cent. recycled;

Niceday A3 80gsm 80 per cent. recycled;

Evolve A4 80gsm 100 per cent. recycled; and

Evolve A3 80gsm 100 per cent. recycled.

From Banner Business Supplies

Banner envelopes (various sizes); and

Printed letterheads and envelopes.

Paper for publications was sourced via the print supplier. The specification was evolution satin 250gsm and 130gsm, 75 per cent. recycled. Paper hygiene products are supplied by the Treasury's Facilities Management Contractors (Exchequer Partnership and Mitie Managed Services).

Hotels

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1145W, on Government departments: hotels, if he will place in the Library a copy of the summary data on bookings made under the Expotel facility in respect of his Department in 2009. [318310]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Public Sector Relocation Independent Review

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 772W, on the Public Sector Relocation Independent Review, what the *(a)* title and *(b)* scope was of each dataset provided to the Review; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each dataset, redacting personally identifiable information. [319642]

Ian Pearson: The datasets were supplied to the Lyons Inquiry team by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) when preparations were being made for the Council Tax Revaluation 2007 in England, which was postponed in 2005. This Inquiry team was separate from, and unconnected to, the Public Sector Relocation Review team, also led by Sir Michael Lyons. The datasets included the following information for each dwelling:

Property attribute data

Relevant sales

Current council tax band

Automated Valuation Model (AVM) estimate of value (where a value estimate had been produced by the AVM)

A statistical measure of confidence in the AVM estimate

Additional analyses about dwellings at the margins of potential new bands

As was stated in my answer on 11 January 2010, the datasets contained property attribute and sales data at individual property level. This is information which, for the protection of individual taxpayers, cannot be released into the public domain by virtue of s18(1) of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 and the Data Protection Act 1988.

Disclosure of estimates of value and confidence scores is also prevented by the above legislation. Any redaction of personal information would leave just property address and council tax band information at the time the data were supplied. Current council tax band information is available on the VOA's website.

Social Security Benefits: Uprating

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the contribution of the Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 523, on benefits uprating, if he will introduce an immediate increase in the additional pension in line with January's retail price inflation figures; and if he will make a statement. [318632]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* I have been asked to reply.

No. Additional pension is up-rated annually in April by reference to the September retail prices index. Any changes in prices in the year to September 2010 will be taken into account in the 2011 up-rating.

Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Stroud constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [321477]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/.

The Government have put in place a broad programme of reform since 1997. Over the decade to 2007, the economic performance of all parts of the UK has improved considerably.

The global recession has had a negative impact on economic activity in all parts of the UK. However, the economy was starting from a position of strength and is actively supported by policies implemented by the Government, including the fiscal stimulus and a significant package of support for those out of work.

In Stroud people are benefiting from this investment. Over the second half of 2009, nearly 430 people moved off of the claimant count each month on average. The claimant count fell for three consecutive months from September and now stands at nearly 5 per cent. below its August level. Long-term unemployment at the beginning of 2010 is nearly 65 per cent. lower than in 2000.

Tax Allowances: Charities

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the effect on tax exemptions for charities of EU state aid rules. [321239]

Ian Pearson: HM Treasury receives representations on a wide range of charity issues. Treasury officials continue to have regular discussions with the charity sector that cover a wide range of issues including European law.

Taxation: National Lottery

Mr. Greenway: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much lottery duty has been paid by the national lottery in each of the last three years. [321055]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information about lottery duty revenue collected by HMRC is available at:-

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullbett

The following table shows figures for revenue collected from lottery duty in each of the last three years for which final data are available.

Lottery duty

Calendar year	*£000*
2006	605,426
2007	577,876
2008	628,447

Valuation Office Agency

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 781W, on the Valuation Office, if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting of the *(a)* electronic capture of hard copy records project board and *(b)* installation of a geographical information system project board, redacting the commercially sensitive elements. [319650]

Ian Pearson: The minutes, suitably redacted, will be placed in the Library of the House by 31 March 2010.

VAT

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment HM Revenue and Customs has made of the merits of making submission of value added tax returns online voluntary instead of compulsory from April 2010. [321093]

Mr. Timms: Lord Carter of Coles' Review of HMRC Online Services recommended the universal electronic delivery of business tax returns; available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2006/carter-review.pdf

The Government accepted Lord Carter's recommendations.

Filing value added tax returns online from April 2010 is compulsory for those businesses with a turnover above £100,000 or newly registering businesses. Businesses already registered for VAT as at 1 April 2010 with a turnover of less than £100,000 (excluding VAT) may file their VAT return on paper or online.

Compulsory online filing of business tax returns will save businesses time and money, and allow HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to deliver better customer service alongside efficiency savings.

HMRC has consulted widely in preparation of moving the filing of business tax returns online, including a three month public consultation on the equality impact assessment; available at:

http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/channelsPortalWebApp.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=pageLibrary_ConsultationDocuments&propertyType=document&columns=1&id=HMCE_PROD1_028731

An impact assessment was published in March 2009, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ria/carter-ia-final1.pdf

A summary of responses to the consultation was published in November 2009, and is available at:

http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/channelsPortalWebApp.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=pageLibrary_ConsultationDocuments&propertyType=document&columns=1&id=HMCE_PROD1_029929

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of interpreters working for his Department in Afghanistan *(a)* have been recruited from the local population and *(b)* are British nationals; and if he will make a statement. [321154]

Bill Rammell: The proportion of interpreters working for the Ministry of Defence in Afghanistan can be split into three distinct groupings. As at 5 March 2010, 91 per cent. are locally employed civilians, 4 per cent. are UK nationals (a mix of civilian contracted and UK military linguists) and the remaining 5 per cent. are civilian contracted third party nationals. The proportions stated are subject to change.

Armed Forces: Discharges

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have been discharged from each of the armed forces for alcohol abuse since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [320771]

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have been administratively discharged from each of the armed forces for alcohol abuse in each year since 2000. [321284]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 5 March 2010]:* Between 1 January 2001 and 31 December 2008 there were 28 Army personnel and 15 RAF personnel medically discharged from service with a principal condition of 'mental and behavioural disorder due to the use of alcohol'. There were no naval service personnel medically discharged with this principal condition during this period. Statistical data in respect of medical discharges for 2009 are currently being compiled.

With regard to administrative discharge, this information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

All three services run robust programmes designed to raise awareness and promote the message of sensible drinking. These programmes address all serving personnel; there are also additional measures in place to assist commanding officers in countering the potential danger to their people. The sale of alcohol and individual consumption limits are regulated particularly, but not only, when personnel are serving operationally. These controls are supported by disciplinary measures where necessary. Individuals identified as being at risk receive counselling and welfare support. This can include attendance on preventative early intervention programmes designed to alert them to the harm that alcohol can cause to themselves and others. More serious cases are treated through specialist medical and psychological treatment and rehabilitation, including where appropriate as inpatients.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people were discharged from each of the armed forces on grounds of mental illness under each international classification of diseases code in each year since 2001. [320774]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 5 March 2010]:* The following tables provide information on how many people were discharged from the each of the armed forces on grounds of mental illness under each international classification of diseases code:

Table 1: Naval Service personnel medically discharged with a principal condition of a mental and behavioural disorder, 2001-08

	All	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
All	295	30	38	42	29	46	42	39	29
Mood Disorders	118	14	19	13	13	16	19	14	10
Of which:									
Depressive Disorder	95	10	13	12	8	15	17	13	7
Neurotic Disorders	126	11	13	20	9	20	20	21	12
Of which:									
PTSD	38	*	*	6	*	6	5	8	5
Of which:									
Adjustment disorders	26	*	*	*	*	*	6	5	*
Organic, including symptomatic, mental disorders	12	*	0	*	*	*	0	0	*
Schizophrenia, schizotypal and delusional disorders	14	*	*	*	*	*	0	0	*
Behavioural syndromes associated with physiological disturbances and physical factors	16	*	5	*	0	*	*	*	*
Disorders of adult personality and behaviour	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	*	0
Disorders of psychological development	*	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0

Table 2: Army personnel medically discharged with a principal condition of a mental and behavioural disorder, 2001-08

	All	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
All	904	103	112	90	121	119	111	111	137
Psychoactive substance use	29	5	6	*	*	5	*	*	7
Of which:									
Disorders due to alcohol	28	5	6	*	*	*	*	*	7
Mood Disorders	307	23	35	33	50	47	32	41	46
Of which:									
Depressive Disorder	238	16	22	27	40	35	27	33	38
Neurotic Disorders	418	53	54	40	54	53	52	57	55
Of which:									
PTSD	113	7	11	6	11	14	20	19	25
Of which:									
Adjustment Disorders	101	19	15	15	14	12	7	10	9
Organic, including symptomatic, mental disorders	16	0	*	*	*	*	*	*	5
Schizophrenia, schizotypal and delusional disorders	69	12	10	11	6	5	14	*	7
Behavioural syndromes associated with physiological disturbances and physical factors	17	*	0	*	*	*	*	*	5
Disorders of adult personality and behaviour	33	8	6	*	*	*	*	*	*
Disorders of psychological development	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*
Behavioural and emotional disorders with onset usually occurring in childhood and adolescence	*	0	0	0	*	0	*	*	7

Table 2: Army personnel medically discharged with a principal condition of a mental and behavioural disorder, 2001-08

Table 3: RAF personnel medically discharged with a principal condition of a mental and behavioural disorder, 2001-08

	All	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
All	332	20	13	28	65	38	78	49	41
Psychoactive substance use	15	0	0	*	*	0	5	6	*
Of which:									
disorders due to alcohol	15	0	0	*	*	0	5	6	*
Mood Disorders	132	11	*	13	19	14	31	14	27
Of which:									
Depressive Disorder	110	9	*	10	13	13	24	14	24
Neurotic Disorders	143	9	9	12	32	20	30	21	10
Of which:									
PTSD	13	0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Of which:									

Table 3: RAF personnel medically discharged with a principal condition of a mental and behavioural disorder, 2001-08

	All	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Adjustment disorders	84	5	*	*	20	14	24	9	6
Organic, including symptomatic, mental disorders	*	0	0	0	*	0	*	0	0
Schizophrenia, schizotypal and delusional disorders	14	0	0	*	*	*	*	5	*
Behavioural syndromes associated with physiological disturbances and physical factors	10	0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Disorders of adult personality and behaviour	14	0	0	0	7	*	5	*	0
Behavioural and emotional disorders with onset usually occurring in childhood and adolescence	*	0	0	0	*	0	*	0	0

Note:

Numbers smaller than five are represented as "*" in line with the Office for National Statistics guidelines. Where there is only one number smaller than five in any row or column the next smallest number has also been replaced.

Armed Forces: Drugs

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many compulsory drug tests for each substance were failed in each of the armed services since 2001. [320772]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 5 March 2010]*: The misuse of drugs is incompatible with the demands of service life and can pose a significant threat to operational effectiveness.

The following table provides information on the numbers of compulsory drug tests and positive results by drug type.

Naval service compulsory drug testing results for the period 1 January 2001-31 December 2009

			Drug types[2]			
	Number of tests conducted	Number of positive results	Cocaine	Ecstasy	Cannabis	Others[1]
2001	12,889	50	7	15	27	1
2002	12,900	42	8	6	26	2
2003	13,803	56	22	12	20	2
2004	12,262	48	20	7	16	5
2005	12,705	47	26	8	11	2
2006	13,552	57	35	9	11	2
2007	10,762	39	22	2	12	3
2008	12,935	67	50	1	13	3
2009	11,563	32	15	1	20	2

Army compulsory drug testing results for the period 1 January 2001-31 December 2009

			Drug types[2]			
	Number of tests conducted	Number of positive results	Cocaine	Ecstasy	Cannabis	Others[3]
2001	97,282	627	76	201	297	30
2002	89,003	514	106	128	239	41
2003	93,129	518	136	103	244	35
2004	92,297	634	206	126	275	27
2005	94,140	796	364	122	281	29
2006	105,008	770	423	95	221	31
2007	75,842	678	419	72	160	27
2008	89,839	651	427	32	171	21
2009	102,949	451	237	[illegible]	203	38

Royal Air Force compulsory drug testing results for the period 1 January 2001-31 December 2009

			Drug types[2]			
	Number of tests conducted	Number of positive results	Cocaine	Ecstasy	Cannabis	Others[4]
2001	13,401	18	3	4	11	0
2002	11,096	10	1	2	7	0
2003	13,570	20	0	4	16	0
2004	11,832	24	10	1	13	0
2005	12,808	21	6	6	8	1
2006	12,884	18	9	3	4	2
2007	12,119	15	11	0	3	1
2008	12,303	27	10	1	13	3
2009	12,399	12	5	0	7	0

[1] Other drugs detected—Ketamine, Steroids, Benzodiazepines and Opiates.
[2] Where a sample tests positive for more than one drug, the more prevalent drug is counted.
[3] Other drugs detected—Heroin, Ketamine, Steroids, Benzodiazepines.
[4] Other drugs detected—Benzodiazepines, Amphetamine.

Armed Forces: Food

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on British Armed Forces Worldwide Food Supply in each year since 2001. [320752]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Catering, retail and leisure (CRL) contracts (incorporating pay as you dine arrangements) are being introduced across the UK, to cater for service personnel in UK units. Such catering contracts now account for around 60 per cent. of food consumption by service personnel. Food procured under such contracts is the responsibility of the supplier. Information on the costs of all food procured within these contracts is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For UK armed forces personnel "in barracks", when personnel are not being fed under CRL contracts, and those serving on operations and overseas exercises, there is a single food supply contract for which the following information is available:

FY	*Spend (£ million)*
2001-02	113
2002-03	114
2003-04	139
2004-05	128
2005-06	139
2006-07	135
2007-08	145
2008-09	176

These figures represent the total of value of commercially supplied food including the cost of food, administration and transport.

The Department has also procured operational ration packs over the same period for which the following information is available:

FY	*Spend (£ million)*
2001-02	14.6
2002-03	16.6
2003-04	26.7
2004-05	23.7
2005-06	15.6
2006-07	15.3
2007-08	18.1
2008-09	25.4

Armed Forces: Parachuting

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department plans to award the Main Stores Parachuting contract. [320761]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We do not recognise this contract description. However, we are currently evaluating tenders received for the award of a medium weight air drop parachute delivery system development contract. It is too early to state when a production contract may be awarded.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has had recent discussions with his US counterpart on the development of a parachute delivery system. [320762]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Secretary of State for Defence has not had any recent discussions with his US counterpart on the development of a parachute delivery system. However, at the working level, information is frequently shared with US counterparts.

Armed Forces: Rescue Services

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of the capability of search and rescue C-130 Hercules aircraft to *(a)* locate casualties in darkness and poor weather conditions and *(b)* deploy life rafts and other support items. [321323]

Bill Rammell: Hercules C-130 aircraft are capable of covering the entirety of the UK's search and rescue area of responsibility and have the capability to operate in accordance with the search and rescue criteria specified in the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual.

Hercules C-130 aircraft is fitted with radar which can be used in a search mode to locate vessels in the water. It can be flown by pilots using night vision goggles to assist with searches.

The C-130 aircraft is able to deploy the life-rafts and containers carried by Nimrod MR2 aircraft for the long-range SAR role. Within the containers are a variety of items that could support the survivor in the four priorities of survival: protection, location, water and food. The items include headover scarves, location aids (flares and distress signals), water and emergency rations.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured vehicles of each type in each armed service were *(a)* in service and *(b)* available for operations on the latest date for which figures are available. [319487]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I am withholding information on the numbers of vehicles available as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

The number of armoured vehicles of each type in service is shown in the following table:

Vehicle	*Total number in service*
AS90	116
Challenger 2	345
CRARRV	81
CVR(T)	1,200
Fuchs	11
FV430 (Mk 2 and Bulldog)	1,487
Saxon	147
Titan	33
Trojan	33
Warrior	785
Mastiff	256
Panther	355
Ridgback	139
Snatch (all variants)	577
Vector	184
Viking	126
Wolfhound	8
Husky	86

Departmental Interpreters

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding is available for service personnel language training in *(a)* Pashto and *(b)* Dari in 2009-10. [321155]

Bill Rammell: The majority of training for service personnel language training in Pashto and Dari is undertaken by the Defence School of Languages. In 2009-10 the funding available for Pashto language training is £1,888,157, and the funding available for Dari language training is £663,407, totalling £2,551,564.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his Department's current pension liabilities are; and what projections have been made for the next 10 years; [321181]

(2) what the estimated pension deficit of his Department is based on *(a)* estimated liabilities and *(b)* budgeted allocations. [321182]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 8 March 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for International Defence and Security Baroness Taylor, to the noble Lord, Lord Moonie in the other place on 9 February 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA120. This provides information on the Department's historic, current and projected liabilities for pension contributions in respect of current military and civilian personnel.

The armed forces pension scheme is an unfunded occupational pension scheme. The estimate of the amount payable for this scheme, as at 31 March 2009, was £91 billion. The methodology used to produce this actuarial assessment can be found in the armed forces pension scheme resource accounts for financial year 2008-09. This estimate of the total amount that will be payable, from Crown resources, over the next 70 to 80 years in respect of pension benefits already earned by some one million current and former service personnel. In practice the pension payments for any given year are made up of the current year contributions into the scheme from the Defence budget, supplemented by HM Treasury funding through the parliamentary estimates process.

Liability for the war pension scheme is not estimated, as it is a benefit payment and not an occupational pension scheme.

It is not possible to provide the liability for the principal service pension scheme for the Department, as the information is only produced across the whole civil service and not broken out by employer.

Ex-servicemen: Health Services

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures are in place to assist the *(a)* rehabilitation and *(b)* re-integration into society of soldiers who are dismissed from the Army due to use of illegal substances. [321387]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 9 March 2010]:* Drugs misuse is contrary to the service ethos, prejudicial to operational effectiveness and is not tolerated in the Army or indeed any of HM Forces. Where an individual has knowingly or recklessly consumed illegal drugs this will, other than in the most exceptional circumstance, result in an automatic discharge. This message is made extremely clear during initial training and is continuously reinforced throughout a soldier's career.

We do not provide specific drug rehabilitation services, but when an individual appears to be a regular drug misuser, they are referred to a medical officer who will consider the need for treatment of any acute medical problems before discharge.

Service personnel who are discharged compulsorily for drug misuse are not eligible or entitled to any of the resettlement provision they may ordinarily have received. However, they all receive a mandatory resettlement brief and a one-to-one resettlement interview within their unit before they discharge. These cover advice on accessing reemployment services such as Jobcentre Plus, advice on housing, the assistance available from ex-service welfare organisations and information about preserved pensions and compensation rights. If, as part of this process, an individual is deemed to be vulnerable to social exclusion then some specialist support is also provided by service resettlement advisors.

Ex-servicemen: Identity Cards

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the first veteran's identity cards will be issued. [321388]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence is in discussion with the Identity and Passport Service about the possible introduction of a veteran's variant of the National ID Card, which would guarantee both identity and previous service in HM armed forces. Timescales for any subsequent roll-out have yet to be finalised.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of pilots of *(a)* Apache, *(b)* Chinook and *(c)* Merlin helicopters were in breach of their harmony guidelines on the latest date for which figures are available. [320006]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 4 March 2010]:* Apache, Chinook and Merlin Mk3 are managed by the Joint Helicopter Command (JHC). JHC operational harmony guidelines are for crews to serve four periods at home for every one in theatre. The Merlin Mk1 is operated by the Royal Navy (RN), whose harmony guidelines state that no individual should exceed 660 days separated service over a rolling three year period.

No Merlin Mk1, Mk3 or Chinook pilots are breaching harmony guidelines. However, 33 per cent. of pilots within the Apache force are not meeting harmony guidelines. This is a reflection of the rapid and successful introduction of the Apache into operational service, some three years in advance of the originally anticipated timescale. Apache pilot harmony is improving constantly as more pilots are trained and become available for deployment.

Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding his Department has provided for the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association in each of the last five years. [321091]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally.

The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association Forces Help is a registered charity and provides a variety of services that are available to current serving personnel, their families and veterans. It receives funding from a number of areas including contracted services arranged and paid for at a local level. In 2009, it also received £50,000 for a specific project from the Veterans Challenge Fund, which is run by the MOD.

To determine how much funding has been provided in the past five years would require a manual search of records in many different locations that would incur a disproportionate cost.

Territorial Army

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 413W, on Territorial Army, what phase 1 training is scheduled to be run at the Regional Training Centre in Ballykinler, County Down in 2010-11; [321307]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 413W, on the Territorial Army, when the phase 1 training will be restarted. [321308]

Bill Rammell: Phase 1 training will recommence at the Regional Training Centre, Ballykinler in April 2010. Three phase 1 courses are currently scheduled to be held at the Regional Training Centre, Ballykinler during the 2010-11 training year. Two will be run over a series of weekends from April to June 2010 and from January to March 2011. The third will take the form of a consolidated course to be held between July and August 2010. All Regular and Territorial Army training programmes are subject to alteration in light of changing operational priorities.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 413W, on the Territorial Army, what the outcome was of the investigation into the reasons for the course being cancelled; [321309]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 413W, on the Territorial Army, what steps he plans to take to ensure that local decisions may not in future be taken contrary to a directive issued by the Government. [321310]

Bill Rammell: A phase 1 training course planned to take place at Ballykinler Regional Training Centre in January 2010 was cancelled as a result of a local decision. This was contrary to the Government's direction. As investigations into the reasons for the cancellation of this training are ongoing it would be inappropriate for me to comment and risk prejudicing the outcome. However, monthly reviews and checks are being conducted to ensure that training continues in accordance with Government direction.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Syms: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of (Mr. Hurd) 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 103W, on departmental marketing, how much *(a)* the Government Equalities Office and *(b)* the Equality and Human Rights Commission have spent on advertising, marketing, public relations and publicity to the (i) Real Help Now and (ii) Building Britain's Future themed campaign to date. [320491]

Michael Jabez Foster: Neither The Equality and Human Rights Commission nor the Government Equalities Office spent any money on advertising, marketing, public relations or publicity in relation to Real Help Now and Building Britain's Future themed campaigns.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many receptions she has hosted for representatives of print and broadcast media since 3 October 2008; how much each reception cost in total; and how many people attended each event. [320565]

Michael Jabez Foster: No receptions have been hosted for representatives of print and broadcast media since 3 October 2008.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many thefts from the Government Equalities Office have been recorded in the last two years. [318993]

Michael Jabez Foster: There have been no recorded thefts from the Government Equalities Office in the last two years.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Copper

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has provided to the Afghan Government to develop copper mining in Afghanistan in the last five years. [320980]

Mr. Michael Foster: Between 2004 and 2008, the Department for International Development (DFID) spent £4 million to map mineral deposits in a geological survey of Afghanistan. This helped identify the growth potential of the mining sector, including copper mining, and restructure the Afghanistan Geological Survey.

DFID has recently agreed to help the Ministry of Mines undertake an ambitious reform programme that will improve its management of the mining sector, including copper mining.

DFID is also helping the Afghan Ministry of Finance implement the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). In February 2010 the EITI board accepted Afghanistan as a candidate country.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many full-time equivalent staff of each grade are employed by his Department to assist special advisers. [321140]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) special advisers are supported by one executive officer (B2) staff member.

Developing Countries: Contraception

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's plans are for future funding of programmes for provision of female condoms; and if he will take steps to encourage others to provide funding for such programmes. [320995]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) is already providing funding for the provision of female condoms. DFID is providing a £100 million grant to the United Nations Population Fund's Global programme for reproductive health commodity security over the period 2007 to 2012. We have also committed £42.5 million to the International Planned Parenthood Federation over the period 2008 to 2015 to help provide sexual and reproductive health information, services and supplies, including female condoms.

Developing Countries: Debts

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts from other G20 countries on the purchasing of the debt of developing countries by investment funds and subsequent use of that debt; and if he will make a statement. [321048]

Mr. Thomas: I work closely with Ministers from G20 countries on a range of development issues. The Government do not support the activities of investment funds who seek full repayment from heavily indebted poor countries on debt they have bought. Legislation has recently been introduced to Parliament by my hon. Friend the Member for Denton and Reddish (Andrew Gwynne) to address this problem. The Government are supporting this legislation which will complement the actions already taken.

Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions his Department has had with representatives of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria on proposals to expand its remit; and if he will make a statement. [320993]

Mr. Thomas: I discussed this with Michel Kazatchkine, executive director of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM), in January. This matter will also be considered at the Global Fund replenishment event in March, during discussions with GFATM on how their work can be strengthened.

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on proposals to extend the responsibilities of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria to include *(a)* maternal health, *(b)* sexual and reproductive health and rights and *(c)* health overall; and if he will make a statement. [320994]

Mr. Thomas: The Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) is already having an impact on maternal mortality and sexual and reproductive health through, for example: increasing access to HIV testing and counselling; prevention of mother-child transmission (PMTCT); and other preventative measures, such as distribution of condom and education materials.

GFATM is also working with international partners to ensure support provided to strengthen health systems in developing countries is effective and improves health outcomes in those countries.

The Global Fund is currently preparing an analysis of its activities and their contribution to the millennium development goals. The Department for International Development will consider this assessment and discuss with GFATM how its work can be strengthened.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what guidance his Department has issued in respect of the sustainability of biomass and biofuels used for electricity generation; [321252]

(2) what steps his Department plans to take to ensure the sustainability of biomass and biofuels used for electricity generation. [321251]

Mr. Kidney: Since April 2009, the Renewables Obligation has required electricity generators over 50 kilowatts to report annually to Ofgem on the biomass they are using, including the available information on its country of origin, details of any environmental standard met and land use change since 30 November 2005. Guidance on the sustainability reporting requirement is available as part of the 'Renewables Obligation: Fuel measurement and sampling guidance' from the Ofgem website.

The Renewable Energy Directive, published in April 2009, includes sustainability criteria that bioliquids used for heat and electricity generation must meet in order to receive financial support and to count towards the Directive's renewable energy targets. These criteria include: a minimum greenhouse gas savings threshold of 35 per cent., rising to 50 per cent. in 2017, and 60 per cent. in 2018 for new installations starting production from 2017; and controls over land use change to protect land important on biodiversity or carbon grounds such as primary forest, wetlands and peatlands.

On 25 February 2010, the European Commission published its recommendations on sustainability requirements for the use of solid and gaseous biomass sources for heat and electricity generation. In the light of this, DECC will make an announcement later this month, setting out what actions the Government can now take to introduce sustainability standards for biomass in the UK.

Climate Change: International Co-operation

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how the £480 million fund to help fight climate change by tackling deforestation between 2010 and 2012 announced at the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit will be allocated; and whether this funding is new money. [319993]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

The UK Government have committed £300 million to tackle deforestation between 2010 and 2012. Part of this commitment has already been allocated, for example £10 million to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and £88 million to the Forest Investment Programme. We are currently developing plans for the balance. The UK's aid programme is growing and this commitment will be financed from this growth.

Nuclear Power: Research

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has undertaken into the capacity factor of nuclear fission plants; and if he will make a statement. [321338]

Mr. Kidney: Following analysis the capacity factor, also called load factor, is presented in the Government's 2007 consultation[1] on nuclear power. For new nuclear reactors the load factor is estimated to be 80 per cent. rising to 85 per cent. after five years operation. Vendors are quoted as expecting 90 per cent. and over.

Most recent figures show that in 2008, currently operating UK nuclear power stations had a capacity factor of 49.4 per cent.

[1] BERR. "The Future of Nuclear Power The role of nuclear power in a low carbon economy. Consultation document", pp. 68. May 2007.

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39197.pdf

HEALTH

Cancer: Nurses

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 755W, on cancer: nurses, which programmes will have been implemented fully by 2011-12; which funded development activities are now reaching a planned conclusion; and how much funding will be released from each programme or activity. [320785]

Ann Keen: The £20 million for one to one cancer nurses has been found from funding released from programmes launched by the next stage review (NSR), which will either have been implemented fully by 2011-12, or from funded development activities which are now reaching a planned conclusion.

Looking across the whole of the NSR we are confident that these savings can be released in 2011-12 where development work is concluding or programmes will be fully implemented such as the development programmes for transforming community service and quality accounts.

The funding released from the conclusion and/or implementation of these programmes will ensure that we are able to fund this key initiative to improve the quality of cancer services which is very much aligned with the vision set out in High Quality Care for All and the quality and productivity challenge being undertaken by the national health service.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Blood

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons people with myalgic encephalomyelitis may not donate blood. [321320]

Ann Keen: People with myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), also known as chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), are not able to donate blood until they have fully recovered. The reasons for this are: first, blood donors need to be in good health, and people with ME/CFS often experience a range of symptoms which could be made worse by donating blood; and second, as the causes of ME/CFS are not currently fully understood, people with the condition are deferred from donating blood as a precautionary measure to protect the safety of the blood supply for patients.

Dental Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) of 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 744W, on departmental statistics, if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent NHS dental services vital signs report. [320789]

Ann Keen: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information technology projects initiated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were cancelled prior to completion in the last 12 months; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [320425]

Phil Hope: The Department and its Executive agency, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency have not cancelled any information technology projects prior to completion in the last 12 months.

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons no response has yet been sent to *(a)* the letter from the Department of Health and Social Security of the Isle of Man Government of 7 September 2009 on the negotiation of separate bilateral health agreements between the Isle of Man and Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and *(b)* the requests for a response sent on 15 October and 4 November 2009 and subsequently; when he plans to make a substantive response to the letter; if he will place in the Library a copy of his eventual response; and if he will make a statement. [321495]

Gillian Merron: The development of any agreement between the Isle of Man Government and the devolved governments would at this stage be a matter for their respective governments. The Department made the Isle of Man Government aware of that position on 9 March 2010.

Hearing Impaired: Health Services

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to maintain the present *(a)* level of funding for audiology training courses and *(b)* number of trained paediatric audiologists. [321346]

Ann Keen: The level of funding allocated for audiology training courses is a matter for individual strategic health authorities. Working with stakeholders, we are developing a range of education and training programmes which will have a focus on audiology as part of modernising scientific careers. These will encompass the needs of both adult and paediatric services.

Hepatitis: Prisoners

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his estimate is of the number of people in prison who have *(a)* HIV, *(b)* hepatitis B and *(c)* hepatitis C. [321148]

Phil Hope: The Health Protection Agency is responsible for gathering information on the incidence and prevalence of blood-borne viruses (BBVs) in the population. Current surveillance systems cannot routinely differentiate infections detected among prisoners from those identified among people in the community.

The Department estimates the burden of infection with BBVs among the adult prison population in England and Wales to be the following:

	Number
HIV	163 (146-179)
Hepatitis B	1,327 (1,194-1,459)
Hepatitis C	4,083 (3,674-4,491)

Note:
Calculated using adult sentenced prison population—21 and over of 59,350 on 30 June 2009, prevalence of heroin and cocaine use, the percentage of these who ever injected and estimate of prevalence from Unlinked Anonymous Prevalence Monitoring Programme's study of injecting drug users, and giving +/- 10 per cent. range.

Mental Health Services: Advocacy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what mechanisms his Department monitors compliance by primary care trusts with the duty to make available independent mental health advocate services for qualifying patients; and what recent discussions he has had with the Care Quality Commission on compliance with that duty. [321342]

Phil Hope: Strategic health authorities are responsible for the performance management of primary care trusts. We understand the Care Quality Commission is currently collecting information on the availability of independent mental health advocates when visiting hospitals which detain patients under the Mental Health Act.

Midwives: Training

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the likely effects of plans for future numbers of university places on the numbers of midwives in training; and if he will make a statement. [321086]

Ann Keen: The Secretary of State for Health has not had a discussion with the Secretary of State for the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills on this topic.

Strategic health authorities (SHAs) are responsible as regional education commissioners for delivering the number of undergraduate nursing and midwifery places commissioned each year. The numbers are based on the long term workforce requirements of their service providers.

More midwives are being trained than ever before and the latest figures show there has been a 38 per cent. increase in the number of students entering training to become a midwife since 1996-97.

SHAs are on track to meet the Government's commitment to have in place 4,000 extra midwives by 2012 subject to the birth rate.

Myelodysplastic Syndromes

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndromes since 1997. [321378]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many patients have been diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndromes since 1997. [321378]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of myelodysplastic syndromes (incidence) are for the year 2007. Please note that the number of cases may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndromes, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one incidence of myelodysplastic syndromes.

Table 1 provides the numbers of newly diagnosed cases of myelodysplastic syndromes in England, for each year from 1997 to 2007.

Table 1. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of myelodysplastic syndromes,[1] England, 1997 to 2007[2]

	Persons
1997	1,602
1998	1,557
1999	2,441
2000	2,119
2001	2,438
2002	2,263
2003	2,318
2004	2,299
2005	2,286
2006	2,147
2007	1,898

[1] Myelodysplastic syndromes is coded as D46 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[2] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what treatments are available on the NHS for patients diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndromes. [321381]

Ann Keen: The 2003 "Improving Outcomes in Haematological Cancers" guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence sets out recommendations about the care and treatment of patients with myelodysplastic syndromes, with the emphasis on symptom control and supportive treatment.

It is for the national health service locally to implement this guidance. Good progress has been made and the National Cancer Action Team continue to work with the NHS at a local level to ensure full implementation.

National Treatment Agency: Public Relations

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the National Treatment Agency has spent on external public relations in each of the last three years; what payments have been made; and for what purposes. [320713]

Gillian Merron: The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse's spend on external public relation agencies in each of the last three years is given in the following table:

	External public relations spend (£)
2006-07	0
2007-08	41,502
2008-09	0

The payments and purposes of the 2007-08 external public relations spend are as follows:

Company	*Purpose*	*Payment (£)*
SB Communications	Communications support	17,500
Chappie Ltd.	Consultancy	3,290
Fishburn Hedges	Communications support	8,674
DHA Communications	Communications support	12,038

Northampton Hospital: Waiting Lists

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were on the waiting list for treatment at Northampton general hospital in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest year for which figures are available. [321267]

Phil Hope: In-patient waiting list figures for Northampton general hospital NHS trust are shown in the following table.

Period	*Total patients waiting for admission*
March 1997	5,796
March 2009	3,516
January 2010	3,779

Source:
Department of Health KH07 and MMR returns from national health service trusts

Streptococcus: Babies

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps are being taken by his Department to increase levels of compliance with the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists' guidelines on preventing group B streptococcal infection in newborn babies; [321081]

(2) what guidelines his Department provides on preventing group B streptococcal infection in newborn babies. [321082]

Ann Keen: Current guidance for obstetricians, midwives and neonatologists is provided by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, (RCOG) which published its Green-top guideline No. 36 on the prevention of early-onset neonatal group B streptococcus disease in November 2003. In 2005, the RCOG, in collaboration with the National Screening Committee, established a national audit to evaluate practice in United Kingdom obstetric units against the recommendations of the guideline. The audit published in January 2007, reported that current practice followed the established patterns of care described in the RCOG guideline.

The Department supports the Maternity Standards published by the RCOG in 2008, which state that maternity services should comply with evidence-based guidelines for the provision of high-quality clinical care.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guidelines for routine antenatal care, published in 2008, recommends that pregnant women should not be offered routine antenatal screening for group B streptococcus because evidence of its clinical and cost effectiveness remains uncertain.

Information for women on Group B streptococcus is contained in "the Pregnancy book"—a guide to health pregnancy, labour and giving birth, and life with your new baby, which is given to all pregnant women during their antenatal care. A copy has already been placed in the Library. Information is also available on NHS Direct and NHS Choices website. Women who are concerned are advised to talk to their doctor or midwife.

HOME DEPARTMENT

British Nationality

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people of each nationality were granted UK citizenship *(a)* between 1980 and 1987 and *(b)* between 1988 and 1997; and how many have been granted UK citizenship since 1997. [317831]

Alan Johnson: The available data for 1977 to 2008 are given in the following table. Data for 2009 are scheduled for publication in May 2010.

Statistics on persons granted British citizenship by previous nationality, type and category of grant are published in table 4 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "British Citizenship Statistics United Kingdom, 2008". This publication may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Persons granted British citizenship, 1977 to 2008[1, 2, 3]

Number of persons

Previous nationality	*1977-87*	*1988-97*	*1998-2008*
Europe			
Albania	5	20	4,710
Andorra	—	*	*

Persons granted British citizenship, 1977 to 2008[1, 2, 11]

Previous nationality	1977-87	1988-97	1998-2008
			Number of persons
Armenia	—	25	205
Austria	730	435	285
Azerbaijan	—	*	815
Belarus	—	10	950
Belgium	860	385	460
Bosnia-Herzegovina	—	45	5,820
Bulgaria	100	365	4,880
Croatia	—	255	4,355
Cyprus	10,785	5,605	4,395
Czech Republic	—	45	915
Denmark	375	190	330
Estonia	80	95	305
Finland	305	170	215
Former Czechoslovakia	875	295	20
Former Yugoslavia	1,850	2,505	865
France	6,110	2,615	3,485
Georgia	—	10	770
Germany[3]	5,845	2,445	2,835
Gibraltar (GBR)	—	—	*
Greece	2,565	1,365	2,290
Hungary	1,515	920	1,465
Iceland	50	55	50
Ireland	4,155	15,130	1,310
Italy	6,005	2,240	2,950
Kazakhstan	—	5	595
Kyrgyzstan	—	5	215
Latvia	320	260	495
Liechtenstein	10	*	5
Lithuania	140	135	1,015
Luxembourg	20	5	20
Macedonia (former Yugoslav Republic of)	—	60	1,005
Malta	1,440	1,700	1,440
Moldova	—	25	615
Monaco	10	5	5
Netherlands	1,180	620	1,075
Norway	535	595	270
Poland	8,125	5,760	6,515
Portugal	1,870	1,030	4,205
Romania	240	400	4,070
Russia	—	750	13,225
San Marino	10	—	5
Serbia and Montenegro[4]	—	295	37,130
Slovakia	—	10	1,385
Slovenia	—	40	125
Soviet Union (USSR)	525	350	25
Spain	3,930	1,215	1,260
Sweden	590	470	615
Switzerland	3,775	2,145	1,360
Tajikistan	—	—	55
Turkey	2,450	7,055	53,495
Turkmenistan	—	—	75
Ukraine	*	1,065	5,480
Uzbekistan	—	*	395
Europe total	67,375	59,240	181,375
Americas			
Antigua and Barbuda	70	115	180
Argentina	775	580	1,035
Aruba	*	—	—
Bahamas	180	210	230
Barbados	9,255	7,595	1,570
Belize	45	180	235
Bolivia	185	160	465
Brazil	700	1,010	4,610
Canada	4,110	8,985	10,215
Chile	545	750	1,125
Colombia	780	1,695	10,585
Costa Rica	55	40	115
Cuba	65	45	655
Dominica	5,380	2,585	605
Dominican Republic	30	90	395
Ecuador	95	110	3,710
El Salvador	115	95	135
French Guyana	—	—	5
Grenada	7,740	3,475	980
Guatemala	100	35	125
Guyana	6,360	3,395	2,800
Haiti	90	5	45
Honduras	195	80	100
Jamaica	77,635	52,670	26,665
Martinique	—	—	*
Mexico	695	360	1,320
Netherlands Antilles	—	*	5
Nicaragua	85	35	70
Panama	65	40	125
Panama Canal Zone	—	—	*
Paraguay	55	25	45
Peru	530	615	1,680
Puerto Rico	*	*	—
St. Kitts and Nevis	20	75	90
St. Lucia	6,155	2,905	1,190
St. Pierre and Miquelon	—	—	*
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	5,090	2,415	925
Surinam	[illegible]	10	45
Trinidad and Tobago	2,925	5,730	5,450
USA	5,460	8,670	24,990
Uruguay	120	105	125
Venezuela	320	305	935
Americas total	135,970	105,190	103,600
Africa			
Algeria	290	1,485	10,395
Angola	5	30	6,005
Benin	5	10	85
Botswana	70	55	220
Burkina Faso	*	5	50
Burundi	—	5	2,385
Cameroon	45	160	2,700
Cape Verde	10	30	30
Central African Republic	—	5	20
Chad	*	*	205
Comoros	—	*	10
Congo	—	10	5,605
Dem Rep. of Congo[5]	20	130	10,590
Djibouti	5	15	115
Egypt	3,595	3,570	6,035

Persons granted British citizenship, 1977 to 2008[1, 2, 3]

			Number of persons
Previous nationality	*1977-87*	*1988-97*	*1998-2008*
Equatorial Guinea	*	*	25
Eritrea	—	405	7,780
Ethiopia	225	1,400	6,340
Gabon	5	10	60
Gambia	200	275	2,565
Ghana	5,750	11,160	32,580
Guinea	*	10	295
Guinea-Bissau		*	60
Ivory Coast (Cote D Ivoire)	5	60	2,760
Kenya	10,245	5,295	15,670
Lesotho	30	20	65
Liberia	45	65	1,525
Libya (Arab Republic)	240	1,170	4,000
Madagascar (Malagasy Republic)	20	25	65
Malawi	970	415	1,030
Mali	*	5	40
Mauritania	5	20	100
Mauritius	7,470	4,705	7,755
Morocco	1,205	5,505	6,865
Mozambique	35	75	205
Namibia	—	25	180
Niger	—	5	55
Nigeria	2,405	14,170	60,990
Peoples Democratic Republic of Burkino	—	—	5
Rwanda	10	10	2,725
Sao Tome Principe	—	—	5
Senegal	5	25	270
Seychelles	1,255	745	915
Sierra Leone	940	1,740	12,605
Somalia	470	2,660	70,175
South Africa	21,320	14,880	48,180
Sudan	365	930	10,755
Swaziland	75	40	90
Tanzania	4,835	2,715	4,750
Togo	15	45	585
Tunisia	240	615	1,630
Uganda	3,005	1,270	12,465
Upper Senegal and Niger	—	*	*
Western Sahara	—	—	*
Zambia	1,915	1,300	3,835
Zimbabwe[6]	8,455	2,820	21,575
Africa total	75,820	80,125	386,035
Indian sub-continent			
Bangladesh	21,480	31,135	48,365
India	65,330	69,395	117,060
Pakistan	75,070	47,860	108,935
Indian sub-continent total	161,880	148,390	274,360
Middle East			
Bahrain	95	100	255
Iran	7,055	14,700	27,115
Iraq	3,155	6,690	36,755
Israel	4,805	3,005	4,525
Jordan	930	1,730	2,695
Kuwait	75	125	985
Lebanon	1,800	3,100	7,230
Oman	20	15	70
Palestine	—	5	2,000
Qatar	10	10	50
Saudi Arabia	45	190	555
Syria	770	1,140	2,690
United Arab Emirates	55	40	185
Yemen[7]	1,020	1,735	4,505
Middle East Total	19,835	32,585	89,605
Other Asia			
Afghanistan	105	470	31,920
Bhutan	5	*	125
Brunei	15	35	70
Cambodia (Kampuchea)	80	285	245
China[8]	12,930	7,245	25,070
Hong Kong SAR of China (Holder of Certificate of Identity or Document of Identity)	—	—	90
Hong Kong SAR of China (Holder of Special Administrative Region Passport)	—	10	965
Indonesia	355	285	1,340
Japan	305	345	1,380
Korea (North)	—	*	45
Korea (South)	455	400	2,730
Laos	40	175	90
Malaysia	3,470	3,465	4,660
Maldives	5	5	60
Mongolia	—	5	235
Myanmar (Burma)	410	665	1,295
Nepal	190	255	4,250
Philippines	4,485	10,115	38,745
Singapore	1,935	835	1,110
Sri Lanka	6,545	12,260	49,295
Thailand	1,060	1,860	9,370
Tibet	10	*	10
Vietnam	1,375	12,970	5,455
Other Asia total	33,775	51,680	178,560
Oceania			
American Samoa	—	—	20
Australia	6,230	7,145	21,110
Bouvet Island	—	—	—
Fiji	760	570	510
Kiribati	15	*	15
Marshall Islands	—	—	*
Nauru	—	—	10
New Zealand	3,875	6,485	12,080
Papua New Guinea	30	10	45
Samoa	10	10	20
Solomon Islands	130	10	20
Tonga	25	20	60
Tuvalu	5	5	*
Vanuatu	5	10	10
Oceania total	11,090	14,270	33,895

Persons granted British citizenship, 1977 to 2008[1] [2] [11]

			Number of persons
Previous nationality	*1977-87*	*1988-97*	*1998-2008*
Others			
British overseas territories citizen[9]	9,555	19,175	5,650
British National (Overseas)	—	—	3,855
British Overseas Citizen	5,115	15,600	22,945
British Protected Persons	10,790	3,365	2,660
British Subjects	710	3,650	2,990
Nationality Unknown	14,420	10,915	610
Nationality Unknown Officially Designated as Stateless	—	*	380
Stateless[10]	6,205	160	610
Stateless—Defined 1954 Convention	—	—	560
Stateless Refugee—Defined 1951 Convention	—	—	55
Stateless Refugee—Other	—	—	185
Others total	46,785	52,865	40,500
Grand total	552,535	544,345	1,287,930

[1] Figures for 1977 to 1983 include both grants made in and outside the United Kingdom.

[2] Figures for 1984 to 2008 exclude grants made outside the United Kingdom and Gibraltar BDTCs registered under section 5 of the British Nationality Act 1981.

[3] Includes both the German Democratic Republic and German Federal Republic before 1991.

[4] Includes Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo.

[5] Formerly known as Zaire.

[6] Known as Southern Rhodesia prior to 1980.

[7] Comprises Yemen Arab Republic and Yemen People's Democratic Republic prior to 1991.

[8] Includes Macau and Taiwan.

[9] Known as British dependant territories citizens prior to February 2002.

[10] Includes 'British subjects without citizenship' and 'No Nationality' categories from previous publications.

[11] Provisional figures.

Note:

Figures rounded to nearest 5 with "*" = 1 or 2 and "—" = nil. Totals may not sum to component values.

Source:

Home Office, Migration Statistics

Departmental Data Protection

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 29W, on departmental data protection, what activities constituted inappropriate use of information in each case of disciplinary action and dismissal. [313461]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 26 January 2010]:* Further to my answer of 18 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 29W, that confirmed that UK Border Agency (UKBA) and Identity and Passport Service (IPS) staff had been subject to disciplinary action and dismissal for inappropriate use of information obtained from an immigration database and/or an identity card or passport database, I can confirm that in respect of UKBA the activities which constituted inappropriate use of information and the numbers subject to disciplinary action or dismissal are as follows:

Falsified records and manipulated Home Office systems: 5

Unauthorised access to a database or allowing another person to use their log in: 6

It is UKBA policy not to disclose any personal information or to provide a further breakdown of the numbers of staff below five where this may potentially reveal to a third party the identity of the individuals involved.

We have therefore provided a total of the staff disciplined for each activity recorded which constituted inappropriate use of information.

IPS records do not specify the activities involved in each particular case.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest non-consolidated performance-related payment was in cash terms for senior civil servants in his Department in each of the last five years. [309959]

Mr. Woolas: The criterion for awarding senior civil servants (SCS) with performance related bonuses is set by the Prime Minister following independent advice from the senior salaries review body (SSRB). The level of payments takes into account a number of factors including individual performance against agreed priority business objectives and targets. Bonuses reward and provide incentives for in-year delivery of key results. Over the three years of SR 04 the Home Office met all its PSA objectives.

The following table shows the average (mean) and highest non-consolidated end-of-year performance-related bonuses for the SCS in the Home Office for the performance years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09. We are unable to give information from previous years as these records are not held centrally and it is not possible to provide the information required without incurring disproportionate costs.

Average (mean) and highest end-of-year performance-related non-consolidated bonuses paid for the last four performance years

Performance year	*Average (£)*	*Highest (£)*
2008-09	9,225	15,000
2007-08	9,052	22,000
2006-07	9,577	20,000
2005-06	6,868	15,000

Departmental Theft

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what items valued at above £100 were reported as stolen from his Department's buildings or premises in the last 12 months. [317832]

Alan Johnson: To gather the information required would incur disproportionate costs.

Emergency Calls: Hoaxes and False Alarms

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of 999 calls responded to by the police in England and Wales were found to be hoaxes in the last year for which figures are available. [320549]

Alan Johnson: A figure for the proportion of 999 calls responded to by police forces in England and Wales found to be hoaxes is not available. Data are available through the annual data return on the number of incidents recorded by police forces in the category 'hoax calls to emergency services' as defined within the national incident category list (NICL). However, not all calls in this category will have come through the 999 system.

The number of incidents recorded by police forces in the category 'hoax calls to emergency services' as defined within the national incident category list (NICL) for 2008-09 was 135,491. The data are normally for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for national statistics publications. They are provisional and may be subject to change. The data represent calls for service as recorded by police forces under the relevant categories and may be subject to local variation in reporting and classifying.

Entry Clearances: Fraud

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been issued with the maximum sentence of a 10-year travel ban to the UK for attempting to use false documents in order to obtain a visa in each of the last 10 years. [318705]

Alan Johnson: In 2008, the Immigration Rules were amended to allow applications for entry clearance, leave to enter or leave to remain to be refused on the grounds that the applicant had previously breached UK immigration law (paragraph 320(7B)). Among those affected are people who have used deception (e.g. false documents) when applying for entry clearance in the last 10 years.

We are currently unable to identify from central records entry clearance applications that have been refused under a particular paragraph of the Rules. We therefore cannot say how many people have so far been refused entry clearance under paragraph 320(7B). However, all persons who have previously used deception in an application for entry clearance are effectively banned from the UK, unless the deception took place more than 10 years ago.

Identity Cards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 819W, on passports, what proportion of the estimated 49 million products to be issued between April 2012 and March 2017 he estimates will be identity cards. [315002]

Alan Johnson: The current underpinning assumptions used for planning purposes in preparing the cost report indicate that approximately 49 million products will be issued over the period April 2012 to March 2017 of which we expect approximately 32 million passports and 17 million identity cards. These are total product volumes, including transactions associated with the replacement of lost or damaged items, but excluding transactions that do not require product issuance, such as changes of address.

It is Government policy that the public will be able to purchase a passport or an identity card or both. As such, the product mix of identity cards and passports depends on a number of factors including: the economic environment; the relative cost of the products to the public; and travel patterns, all of which can vary over time. The IPS cost report provides total product volumes predictions that attempt to take account of these variables and the figures given above are exactly in line with the 10-year financial projections in the October 2009 cost report.

Illegal Immigrants

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people employed *(a)* on his Department's premises and *(b)* by an agency of his Department were found to have been working illegally in the UK in each year since 1997. [317546]

Alan Johnson: Table 1 sets out the number of people employed on the Department's premises or by an agency of the Department since 2002. Data from before 2002 are not held.

	Incident
2002	1 UKBA contractor
2003	None
2004	1 contractor and one member of staff both UKBA
2005	2 UKBA contractors and one Prison Service employee
2006	9 UKBA contractors and one Home Office contractor
2007	1 Home Office contractor
2008	1 UKBA contractor
2009	1 Home Office contractor

Illegal Immigrants: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in *(a)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London have been prosecuted for offences related to the employment of people who did not have permission to work in the UK since 1997. [321056]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts in the Metropolitan police force area for offences of employing a person subject to immigration control without permission to work from 1997 to 2008 (latest available) are given in the table as follows. Court proceedings data are not available at local authority area level.

Prosecution data for the criminal offence of employing a person without permission to work are not representative of the totality of UK Border Agency enforcement action against illegal migrant working. The criminal offence in the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 was replaced with a system of civil penalties in the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. So far, the UK Border Agency has issued over 3,800 financial penalties nationwide to employers found to have employed persons subject to immigration control without the right to work, having failed to comply with the requirement to perform specified document checks.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication in the autumn, 2010.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts in the Metropolitan police force area for offences relating to employing a person knowing that they are subject to immigration control, 1997 to 2008[1, 2, 3]

	Employing a person subject to immigration control who has attained the age of 16. Employing a person knowing that they are subject to immigration control who has not been granted leave to enter or remain, or whose leave to remain is invalid etc.
1997	—
1998	—
1999	—
2000	4
2001	1
2002	—
2003	2
2004	6
2005	5
2006	4
2007	1
2008	4

[1] Includes offences under: Asylum and Immigration Acts 1996 and 1999, Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Immigrants: Detainees

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* child asylum seekers and *(b)* children of asylum seekers of each age group from each country have been held in immigration detention prior to deportation at each location in each year since 1997. [319776]

Alan Johnson: The information is not held centrally and could only be provided by checking individual records over the period requested at a disproportionate cost.

Police: Bureaucracy

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many forms were required to be completed by police officers and police staff, on average, to process an individual arrest in the most recent year for which figures are obtainable; [320551]

(2) if he will estimate the number of police officers and staff that were required to process the average arrest for the most recent year for which figures are obtainable; [320552]

(3) how long it took on average to process an individual arrest in the most recent year for which figures are obtainable. [320553]

Alan Johnson: Data on the time taken and number of staff required to process an arrest are not reported to the Home Office.

A Custody Record is the only "form" which the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) and the codes of practice require to be completed in all arrests at designated stations. Statutory responsibility for their accuracy and completion fall to the custody officer, not the arresting officer. Additional forms required depend upon the individual circumstances of particular cases and therefore it is not possible to accurately estimate the average number of forms involved in each arrest.

Terrorism: Stop and Search

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 702W, on terrorism: stop and search, if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* National Policing Improvement Agency guidance on stop and search powers, *(b)* letter to all chief constables whose forces had standing section 44 authorisations and *(c)* guidance of 15 December 2009 on photography in public places. [319743]

Mr. Hanson: The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) guidance on stop and search powers is available publicly on the NPIA website. The Metropolitan Police Service guidance is also available on the MPS website. My letter to all chief constables whose forces had section 44 authorisations was made public at the end of 2009. All three of these documents will be placed in the Library.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Databases

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for how long *(a)* unique pupil numbers and *(b)* unique learner numbers are held after a child leaves secondary education. [319610]

Mr. Coaker: Unique pupil numbers (UPN) are used to facilitate the tracking of pupils' movement and progress within the maintained school system in England. The number is allocated to each pupil according to a nationally specified formula on their first entry to school and is a unique identifier, which is intended to remain with them throughout their school career.

The unique learner number (ULN) is a 10-digit identifier which is allocated by the Learning and Skills Council to pupils in schools in England in year 9 as they approach their 14th birthday. Pupils will retain the same ULN for accessing details of their education and skills participation and achievement through and beyond their post-14 school career.

The Department currently holds all of the UPNs and ULNs it has collected via the School Census in the Department's national pupil database (NPD). The NPD is a longitudinal database, containing pupil and student characteristic information from the School Census, matched to attainment data at each key stage. The data held in the NPD is used to monitor achievement and participation in the education sector and also to inform, influence and improve education research and education policy. The information currently held in the NPD allows for the tracking of pupil attainment at key stage 5 with their achievement back to key stage 1.

Our retention policy, including archiving data with the national archive, is currently being developed as part of gaining accreditation to ISO 27001.

Class Sizes: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the ratio of pupils to teachers in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each London borough has been in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [319064]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested for January 2009 is published in table 27 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) "School Workforce In England (including local authority level figures) January 2009 (Revised)" published on 29 September 2009. The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000874/Tables19to27v2.xls

The information requested for January 2008 is published in table 27 of Statistical First Release (SFR) "School Workforce in England (including local authority level figures), January 2008 (Revised)" published on 25 September 2008. The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000813/SFR262008_Tables_LA20081021-2.xls

The information requested for January 2007 is published in table 25 of Statistical First Release (SFR) "School Workforce in England (including pupil: teacher ratios and pupil: adult ratios), January 2007 (Revised)" published on 27 September 2007. The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/SFR29_2007_FinalTables18-25.xls

The information requested for January 2006 is published in table 25 of Statistical First Release (SFR) "School Workforce in England (including pupil:teacher ratios and pupil:adult ratios), January 2006 (Revised)" published on 28 September 2006. The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000681/addition2v2.xls

The information requested for January 2005 is published in table 21 of Statistical First Release (SFR) "School Workforce in England (including pupil:teacher ratios and Pupil:adult ratios), January 2005 (Revised)" published on 28 September 2005. The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000603/WebTables15-21v2.xls

Classroom Assistants

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teaching assistants have been employed in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [321115]

Mr. Coaker: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants in service in local authority maintained schools, city technology colleges and academies in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside local authority, the North East government office region and England, January each year, 1997 to 2009.

Full-time equivalent teaching assistants in service in local authority maintained schools, city technology colleges and academies, January each year, 1997 to 2009—Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside local authority, the North East Government Office region and England

	Jarrow constituency	*South Tyneside local authority*	*North East Government Office region*	*England*
January				
1997	90	160	2,870	60,600
1998	90	160	2,990	65,560
1999	100	160	3,150	69,700
2000	100	180	3,450	79,050
2001	140	250	4,280	95,020
2002	200	350	4,010	105,440
2003	150	280	5,070	121,270
2004	230	420	5,660	132,240
2005	240	440	6,470	147,250
2006	260	470	6,980	153,510
2007	260	440	7,490	163,800
2008	280	460	8,100	176,990
2009	290	500	8,520	183,700

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* disciplinary and *(b)* capability procedures have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed in his Department in each of the last five years; how much time on average was taken to complete each type of procedure in each such year; how many and what proportion of his Department's staff were subject to each type of procedure in each such year; and how many and what proportion of each type of procedure resulted in the dismissal of the member of staff. [320634]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department was created in June 2007. Staff may be the subject of formal disciplinary and capability procedures which are resolved without the imposition of any penalty. The formal procedures may also lead to dismissal for poor performance, poor attendance or misconduct, and the contract of employment terminated. Information for the Department and its predecessors in relation to dismissals for performance, attendance or misconduct is set out as follows. Totals of less than five are suppressed on grounds of confidentiality.

	Disciplinary procedures initiated	*Number of staff dismissed: Disciplinary*	*Capability procedures initiated*	*Number of staff dismissed: Capability*
2007-08 July	9	Less than 5	13	Less than 5
2006-07	7	Less than 5	12	Less than 5

	Disciplinary procedures initiated	*Number of staff dismissed: Disciplinary*	*Capability procedures initiated*	*Number of staff dismissed: Capability*
2005-06	9	Less than 5	6	Less than 5

The number of cases initiated under formal procedures for capability and discipline is given, outcomes and timescales for completion are not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Staff may also be dismissed in law when a fixed term contract terminates at the end of the contract period and is not renewed is not included above. That information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Paper

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* brands of (i) paper and (ii) paper products his Department uses; and what his Department's policy is on the procurement of those materials. [320034]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department buys paper products in the following categories.

Copier papers
Printing papers
Hygiene products (including toilet tissue, paper towels, kitchen towels)
Packaging materials (including cardboard, tissue paper)
Craft materials (including card, tissue)

For each category, I have shown below the suppliers, brands of paper and paper products the Department uses.

Desktop stationery—copier papers, printing papers, card

The Department's desktop stationery contract is with Banner Business Services.

Brand: Banner

A4 copier paper 100gsm white
A4 copier paper 90gsm white
A4 Office paper 4 hole 80gsm white
A4 Office paper 2 hole 80gsm white
High res inkjet paper 190gsm A4
Duplicating paper A4 80gsm pink
A4 Copier paper 80gsm white
A3 Office copier 80gsm white
A4 Office copier 80gsm white
A3 Value copier 80gsm white
A4 Value copier 80gsm white

Brand: EP4

Copier paper A4 80gsm white
Paper A4 4 hole 80gsm white

Brand: Xerox

A4 Symphony tinted paper 80gsm Dk Yell
A4 Symphony tinted paper 80gsm
A4 Colotech copier 160gsm white
A3 Premier copier 90gsm white
A4 Business copier 80gsm white
A4 Performer copier 80gsm white
A4 Pastel multicolour paper 80gsm
Exclusive A4 copier paper 80gsm white

Brand: Steinbeis

Recycled A3 80gsm pure white
Recycled A4 80gsm pure white

Brand: Evolve

Office paper A3 80gsm white
Business paper A4 80gsm white
Office paper A4 80gsm white

Brand: Conqueror

Correspondence CX22 paper A4 100gsm D/white

Card

Brand: Xerox

A4 Symp tinted card 160gsm

Brand: Banner

Index card 230gsm white
Index card A4 150gsm white

Brand: Vanguard

A4 Card 200mu ivory

The Department has a policy to buy 100 per cent. recycled paper to use in photocopiers and desktop printers.

Printed publications:

Supplier: The Department's Publishing Delivery Service is operated as a joint venture by Prolog and Communisis.

No specific brand is used. This is determined by the item required and the availability in the paper market at that time.

The Department has a policy of using 100 per cent. recycled paper for all printed publications packaging materials (including cardboard, tissue paper).

The supplier, Prolog, source the packing materials for fulfilment purposes through their 2nd tier supplier Macfarlanes.

Brands used:

Arofol bags—'Arofol'
Mailtuff bags—'Sealed Air Mailtuff'
Envelopes—'Blake'
Cartons—Non-branded
Postal tubes—Non-branded
Bubble wrap—'Sealed Air'
Shrink wrap—Non-branded
Paper—'Xerox'

The Department's policy for bags, wrap and envelopes is to keep waste to a minimum by using materials which are 100 per cent. recyclable.

Paper hygiene products

All paper hygiene products used in DCSF, including soft toilet tissue and paper hand towels, are produced entirely from 100 per cent. recycled materials as per the contract specification.

Paper hygiene consumables are ordered by Mitie Cleaning and Environmental Services Ltd. and supplied by Bunzl. The brands used are Kimberley Clarke and Tork.

Departmental Pay

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on wages for *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* communications or press officers in each year since 2003. [319147]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Government publish, on an annual basis, information on the names, number and overall cost of special advisers. The last published list can be found at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090716/wmstext/90716m0008.htm#09071651000054

For information on part *(b)* of the question, this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Education: International Cooperation

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding has been allocated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* other departments to the Teachers' International Professional Development Programme in each year since 2000. [318236]

Mr. Coaker: The Teachers International Professional Development (TIPD) programme is funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for International Development. Information on the funding allocated by each Department for the period 2000-01 to 2010-11 is provided in the following tables:

£

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
DCSF expenditure	2,696,606	2,898,652	2,444,455	2,686,780	3,070,956	3,149,642
DFID expenditure	50,620	43,689	34,686	39,829	38,957	40,157
Total expenditure	2,747,226	2,942,341	2,479,141	2,726,609	3,109,913	3,189,799

£

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Department total*
DCSF expenditure	3,278,761	3,262,164	3,558,593	3,768,979	3,886,470	34,702,059
DFID expenditure	41,781	44,628	68,287	70,336	72,446	545,414
Total expenditure	3,320,541	3,306,792	3,626,880	3,839,315	3,958,916	35,247,473

Gifted Children: Poole

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in the Poole unitary authority area were given places on the Young, Gifted and Talented Programme in the latest period for which figures are available. [320387]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Through the School Census schools are asked to confirm the number of gifted and talented pupils they have identified.

The following table shows the number and percentage of children identified as gifted and talented in Poole unitary authority in the January 2009 census.

Figures include primary[1] and secondary[1, 2] school data broken down by the number[3] and percentage of gifted and talented pupils.

Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1, 2] schools: number[3] and percentage of gifted and talented pupils. As at January 2009. In the unitary authority of Poole

	Maintained primary schools		*State-funded secondary schools*		*Primary and secondary schools*	
	Number of gifted and talented pupils	*Percentage of gifted and talented pupils*	*Number of gifted and talented pupils*	*Percentage of gifted and talented pupils*	*Number of gifted and talented pupils*	*Percentage of gifted and talented pupils*
2009	780	7.7	1,975	23.5	2,750	14.8

[1] All data include middle schools as deemed.
[2] All data include City Technology Colleges and Academies.
[3] All data show solely registered pupils only.
Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

A data table showing information for all local authorities in England has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Grimsby

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Great Grimsby constituency, the effects of his Department's policies on that constituency since 1997. [320187]

Mr. Coaker: Since 1997 the Government have transformed education and child care with improved outcomes for children and young people. Figures showing the performance at key stage 2, and at GCSE and equivalents in Great Grimsby are given in the following tables:

Key stage 2 results of 11-year-old pupils attending schools in the Great Grimsby constituency

Percentage of pupils gaining level 4 and above[1]	*1997*	*2009*[2]	*Percentage point improvement 1997 to 2009*
Great Grimsby			
English	50	73	23
Maths	48	73	25
Science	53	84	31
England			
English	63	80	17
Maths	62	79	17
Science	68	88	20

[1] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including academies and city technology colleges).

[2] Revised data.

Source:

School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables.

GCSE and equivalents[1] *results for pupils*[2] *attending schools*[3] *in the Great Grimsby constituency*

Percentage of pupils gaining	*1997*	*2009*[4]	*Percentage point improvement 1997 to 2009*
Great Grimsby			
5+ A*-C	18.2	62.1	43.9
5+ A*-G	73.3	85.3	12.0
England			
5+ A*-C[5]	45.1	70.0	24.9
5+ A*-G[5]	86.4	92.3	5.9

[1] From 2004 results incorporate GCSEs, GNVQs and a range of other qualifications approved pre-16. Prior to 2004 results are based on GCSEs and GNVQs only.

[2] From 2006 figures are for pupils at the end of key stage 4. Prior to 2006 results are based on pupils aged 15.

[3] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including academies and city technology colleges) and from 2000 does not include pupils recently arrived from overseas.

[4] Revised data.

[5] England figures also include independent schools as well as hospital schools and PRUs.

Source:

School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables.

Further information by constituency is available on the Department's 'In Your Area' website:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/inyourarea

The information available at constituency level includes the number of specialist schools, number of operational academies, number of teaching assistants and other support staff, number of teachers and pupil:teacher ratios. Where information is not available at constituency level it has been provided at local authority level including the number of free early education places taken up by three and four-year-olds, number of full-time and part-time entrants to higher education institutions aged 18 to 20, average A level point score per candidate and per entry together with percentage of people of working age qualified to at least level 2 and percentage of people of working age qualified to level 4 and above.

Additional information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff his Department, its predecessors and its agencies have appointed who were later discovered to be illegal immigrants since 2005. [320499]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department was created in June 2007 and no members of staff have been employed and later discovered to be illegal immigrants. The Department does not hold records for its predecessor Departments and has no agencies.

Languages: Secondary Education

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether he plans to take steps to encourage schools to continue to provide teaching in Mandarin for pupils in years 10 and 11; [321285]

(2) whether he plans to take steps to encourage students to take up opportunities to learn Mandarin in schools; [321286]

(3) what his policy is on the provision of teaching of Mandarin in schools in years 10 and 11. [321287]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Mandarin language skills are becoming increasingly important for the future of our economy and we wish to encourage schools to offer the language where possible. Languages will become compulsory for 7 to 11-year-olds from September 2011. The choice of which languages to teach is for schools to make. We are funding the development of the primary schools workforce to prepare for compulsory language learning, including beginning in 2010/11 a primary initial teacher training programme with a Mandarin specialism.

Languages remain compulsory for 11 to 14-year-olds. Since 2008 we have widened the range of languages secondary schools can offer by lifting the requirement that schools must teach first a working language of the European Union. Research shows that 16 per cent. of secondary schools are now offering Mandarin Chinese either within or outside curriculum time, up from 9 per cent in 2007.

Languages have not been compulsory for 14 to 16-year-olds since 2004. Since then, languages have been an entitlement subject and schools must offer the opportunity to learn a language to all pupils who wish to do so. While the overall numbers of entries by pupils for a GCSE in a language have declined, the number of pupils in England entered for a GCSE in Mandarin has increased by some 70 per cent. from 1,444 in 2002 to 2,448 in 2009.

Finally, we will shortly be beginning a project to capture good practice in teaching Mandarin and about China, including bringing together in one place existing resources and considering what more might be done to promote further teaching of the language and culture of China.

Members: Correspondence

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to reply to Question *(a)* 312701, *(b)* 312702 and *(c)* 312703, on personal, social, health and economic education, tabled by the hon. Member for Salisbury on 19 January 2010. [321296]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 9 March 2010]:* Parliamentary questions 312702 and 312703 were answered on 8 March and parliamentary question 312701 was answered on 9 March.

National Science and Engineering Week

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans his Department has to mark National Science and Engineering Week. [320955]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department is supporting the 2010 Big Bang UK Young Scientists' and Engineers' Fair which initiates National Science and Engineering Week and will take place at the Manchester Central Convention Complex between 11 and 13 March 2010.

This Big Bang Fair 2010 celebrates young people's achievement in science and engineering and will host more than 120 interactive activities, exhibitions and live shows as well as incorporating the final of the National Science and Engineering competition which is open to schools throughout the UK.

Pupils: Absenteeism

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department provides guidance to magistrates on levels of fines for parents of children absent from school. [319355]

Mr. Coaker: The Department for Children, Schools and Families and its predecessors has not issued guidance to magistrates on levels of fines for parents who fail to secure their child's attendance at school.

However, the Department has produced guidance for educational practitioners: 'Ensuring children's right to education: guidance on the legal measures available to secure regular school attendance', which is available on teachernet:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/behaviour/pcspospns/prosecutions/

Pupils: Clothing

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department provides to schools on dress codes. [320827]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department published guidance in October 2007 which provides advice to schools on how to formulate fair, reasonable, affordable and inclusive school uniform policies. The guidance can be viewed at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/atoz/u/uniform/

School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme: Northampton

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in Northampton were receiving free fruit in school in the latest period for which figures are available. [321268]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Schools are able to participate in the Department of Health's school fruit and vegetable scheme, which provides key stage 1 pupils in maintained primary schools in England with a free piece of fruit or vegetable every day.

Figures from the NHS supply chain show that in February 2010, 27,205 pupils in Northampton were provided with free fruit in school.

Schools: Admissions

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many representations *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have received from (i) hon. Members and (ii) local authorities on the number of (1) primary school places in Hertfordshire in (A) 2008, (B) 2009 and (C) 2010; how many (1) requests for meetings each received from and (2) meetings each had with (x) hon. Members and (y) local authorities on the matter; and which local authorities were involved in each such case; [320825]

(2) secondary school places in Hertfordshire in (A) 2008, (B) 2009 and (C) 2010; how many (1) requests for meetings each received from and (2) meetings each had with (x) hon. Members and (y) local authorities on the matter; and which local authorities were involved in each such case. [320826]

Mr. Coaker: Our records show only one representation made to Ministers since 2008 on the number of primary school places in Hertfordshire. In June 2009, Diana Johnson met with the hon. Lady and the right hon. Member for Hitchin and Harpenden (Mr. Lilley) to discuss the provision of places in line with parental preference. I understand there was discussion around the lack of primary places in St. Albans although this was not the main focus of the meeting. Representatives were present from the local authority.

Our records show only one representation made to Ministers since 2008 on the number of secondary school places in Hertfordshire. In July 2009, Mr. Lilley wrote setting out his concerns about the lack of secondary school places in Hertfordshire.

Our records do not show any representations from local authorities.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he has taken to increase the number of school places in St. Albans. [320854]

Mr. Coaker: It is the responsibility of local authorities to secure a place for every child of statutory school age in their area who needs one. The Department provides capital to support this duty. From 2008-09 to 2010-11, over £1.2 billion of capital funding has been allocated nationally through the Basic Need programme to local authorities for providing additional places. Basic Need funding is partly allocated on forecasts of growth in pupil numbers provided by each authority. Where providing additional places is a local priority, authorities can also use funding from other sources, including receipts, planning gains and other major schools capital programmes. In total, from 2008-09 until 2010-11, Hertfordshire has been allocated over £90 million of schools capital which could be used to provide additional places where there is need.

In 2009, as it became apparent that some areas were experiencing or expecting exceptionally high increase in demand for primary pupil places which had been difficult to forecast, the Department made additional funding available to support the immediate provision of additional primary places by 2011 in the areas of highest growth. We have allocated £274 million to 36 authorities. Hertfordshire did not apply for this funding.

Schools: Biometrics

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many complaints his Department has received on the use of biometric data in schools in the last three years. [320123]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 3 March 2010]*: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not keep a specific record of complaints received on the use of biometric data. However, a search of correspondence has identified 34 instances of concerns or objections relating to the use of biometric technologies in schools in the three years from February 2007.

Schools: Transport

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to which projects the funding formerly allocated to the School Transport Pathfinder pilots has been assigned. [320140]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The School Transport Pathfinder Pilots were not taken forward as the bids received from local authorities neither were comprehensive nor gave the broad and diverse mix of rural and urban schemes we were looking for to run meaningful pilots.

The funding allocated to the pilots has been redirected to the Voluntary Aided Private Finance Initiative, Partnership for Schools, the Office of the Schools Adjudicator, the Travel to School Initiative and School Formation and Investment Group funding pressures.

Schools: Visits

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has given to local education authorities on visits to schools by *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* parliamentary candidates and *(c)* Cabinet Ministers (i) within and (ii) outside election purdah periods. [319658]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Secretary of State does not issue guidance to local authorities covering visits to schools.

The Cabinet Office issues separate guidance to Departments on activities during General and local pre-election periods. The 2005 guidance can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/cabinetoffice/propriety_and_ethics/assets/electguide.pdf

Talent Taskforce: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on the Talent Taskforce in the latest year for which figures are available. [321202]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Talent and Enterprise Taskforce's programme spend was £3,303,706 for the period 2008-09. The Taskforce's running costs were £307,255, over the same period. This was used to fund programmes and activities to promote the talent agenda and engage influential networks and organisations across society to do the same.

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average pay was of a teacher in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [321114]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available for Jarrow constituency.

The following table provides the average salary of full-time regular qualified teachers in service in local authority maintained schools, March each year, 1997 to 2008, the latest information available.

Average salary of full-time regular qualified teachers in local authority maintained schools, March each year, 1997 to 2008—South Tyneside local authority, North East Government Office region and England

£

	South Tyneside local authority	North East Government office region	England
January			
1997	22,460	22,460	22,920
1998	23,110	23,060	23,560
1999	24,140	23,980	24,460
2000	25,190	24,970	25,420
2001	27,130	26,860	27,260
2002	[1]—	28,210	28,730
2003	30,340	29,810	30,500
2004	31,540	31,170	31,750
2005	33,020	32,420	32,890
2006	34,450	33,470	33,940
2007[2]	35,550	34,660	35,010
2008[2]	36,270	35,560	35,940

[1] Figures are not sufficiently reliable.

[2] Provisional.

Notes:

1. Maintained sector only. Teachers in academies (including those that were previously maintained schools) are not included.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.

Source:

Database of Teacher Records

Truancy

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many cases associated with parents not ensuring their child attended school were heard in court in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [318272]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 24 February 2010]*: Information from the Ministry of Justice court proceedings database on the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to failing to attend school in England 2001 to 2008 can be viewed in the following table. Prior to 2001 these offences cannot be separately identified.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to 'failing to attend school'[1] [2]

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Proceeded against	1,961	3,163	3,849	4,442	4,648	5,999	7,745	9,506

[1] Includes the following:
(i) Failure to secure regular attendance at school. (Education Act 1996 S.444 (1)(8)).
(ii) Parent knows that their child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school. (Education Act 1996 S.444(8)(1a)(8a) added by Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 S.72)

[2] Prior to 2001 these offences cannot be separately identified.

Notes:
1. The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

These data are a further breakdown of those published in the Criminal Statistics, Supplementary Volumes for England and Wales for the years 2001 to 2008.

The increase in the number of cases over this period reflects a sustained drive, led by the Government, to improve levels of school attendance including by encouraging local authorities to make more use of their powers to proceed against parents who are failing in their legal responsibility to ensure their children receive a full time education. The outcome has been a significant improvement in school attendance, with on average 71,800 more children attending school each day in 2007/08 than in 2000/01.

CABINET OFFICE

Bogus Charity Collections

9. **Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on reducing the number of bogus charity collections. [321246]

Angela E. Smith: The Government believe that this is a serious issue because the public give to charities to support their work not to help bogus collectors make money. On 12 February the 'Give with Care' campaign was re-launched to increase public awareness of bogus clothing collections, and explain how people can ensure that donations reach the charities that really need them.

I have not had any discussions with the Secretary of State for the Home Department but a key partner in this campaign is the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Civil Service Compensation Scheme

10. **Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent representations she has received on changes to the civil service compensation scheme; and if she will make a statement. [321247]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Cardiff, North (Julie Morgan).

Census

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the timetable is for the completion of the Beyond 2011 review into the way the Census is conducted; and what *(a)* research and *(b)* representations will be considered as part of the review. [320731]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 8 March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the timetable is for the completion of the Beyond 2011 review into the way the Census is conducted; and what (a) research and (b) representations will be considered as part of the review. (320731)

The Beyond 2011 Project was established with the Registrars' General in Scotland and Northern Ireland to consider options to deliver population data for the UK of the required coverage and quality beyond the next Census. It is therefore not reviewing the way that the current 2011 Census exercise is conducted, rather it is looking at options and their feasibility beyond 2011.

A detailed work programme is currently being developed to enable a decision on a way forward to be taken by 2014.

Extensive technical and methodological research is planned. This is drawing on internal ONS expertise in population statistics, the use of administrative data, household survey and census taking, but also uses a number of external experts in the area of population statistics to help advise and peer review our work. We are also drawing on the expertise of other countries. The project outputs, including the research on the statistical feasibility and user requirements, will be made publicly available.

Formal consultation on options will take place after the 2011 Census, but we have already begun to discuss the issues with stakeholders and have established a website at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/methodology-and-quality/imps/beyond-2011/index.html

Census (England and Wales) Regulations 2010

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what her timetable is for the *(a)* laying before Parliament and *(b)* coming into effect of the Census Regulations. [320714]

Angela E. Smith: The Census (England) Regulations 2010 were laid before both Houses on 4 March and will come into force on 31 March.

Central Office of Information: Advertising

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will place in the Library a copy of the Central Office of Information's internal guidance on advertising during election periods. [320729]

Tessa Jowell: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the right hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 3 March 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [320729] asking whether COI can provide a copy of any internal guidance on advertising during the election period.

The Central Office of Information will adhere to guidance issued by the Cabinet Office applicable to advertising during an election. This guidance will be issued once an election has been called.

Departmental Internet

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much has been spent on employing design consultants for websites operated by her Department in each of the last three years. [321235]

Ms Butler: It is not possible to separate out design costs as these are frequently costed as part of larger projects.

All of the commissioned design work has been utilised and published.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many full-time equivalent staff of each grade are employed by her Department to assist special advisers. [321129]

Tessa Jowell: Two civil servants at B1 (EO) and C (AO) grade support my special advisers. The C (AO) grade is employed by DCMS.

Futurebuilders England: Consultants

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much Futurebuilders has spent on *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* management fees. [320725]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office pays a fixed service charge to Futurebuilders for its running costs. The service charge is not broken down into management fees and other costs.

Futurebuilders England: Grants

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much and what proportion of total funding provided to Futurebuilders has been given to charities in the form of grants since the programme began. [320724]

Angela E. Smith: The Futurebuilders Programme is delivered by Futurebuilders England Ltd. under contract to the Cabinet Office. Since the programme began, a total of £25.8 million has been given to third sector organisations in grants. This represents 16.7 per cent. of all investment offers. The vast majority of funding given to third sector organisations is in the form of loans.

Government Communications

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 602W, on Government communications, what the title is of each best practice guidance note and entry published on the Government Communications Network intranet in the last 18 months. [320903]

Tessa Jowell: The GCN website makes extensive use of community tools (wiki and forums) to allow members to share best practice across all areas of Government communications. This detailed information could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Hotels

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of 3 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 410W, on hotels, what the total number of bookings made through the Expotel contract was by the *(a)* Cabinet Office, *(b)* Central Office of Information and *(c)* Charity Commission in 2009; and what number and proportion of hotel bookings were not made through the Expotel facility in each such case. [318326]

Angela E. Smith: All hotel bookings made by Ministers are in accordance with the Ministerial Code. Similarly, all hotel bookings made by civil servants are in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code.

(a) In the period January 2009 to December 2009 (inclusive), 1,676 bookings were made through the Expotel contract by the Cabinet Office.

Ascertaining the number of hotel bookings which were made outside the Expotel contract would require a full interrogation of Government Procurement Card (GPC) records and expenses claims for the specified period, and would therefore incur disproportionate costs.

(b) I will ask the chief executives of the Central Office of Information and the Charity Commission to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 3 March 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [318326] asking for the total number of bookings made through the Expotel contract in 2009.

In the period January 2009 to December 2009 (inclusive), 733 bookings were made through the Expotel contract by the COI.

The number of hotel bookings which were made outside the Expotel contract would require a full interrogation of Government Procurement Card (GPC) records and expenses claims for this period, and would therefore incur disproportionate costs.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 23 February 2010:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on the total number of bookings made through the Expotel contract by the Charity Commission in 2009; and what number and proportion of hotel bookings were not made through the Expotel facility in each such case (318326).

In the calendar year 2009, the Charity Commission made 962 bookings via Expotel.

The Commission uses Expotel for the majority of hotel bookings but a few are made by alternative means, either using a Government Procurement Card or a personal credit card. Where Commission staff book their hotel directly, generally when a booking is required at short notice, the cost is subject to a limit of £110 in London and £85 elsewhere. To gather information on non-Expotel booked hotel stays would require a manual review of all personal travel and subsistence claims and Government Procurement Card statements for the last year. This could not be undertaken within the time available or without incurring a disproportionate cost.

I hope this information is helpful.

Local Endowment Funds

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the Prime Minister's speech at "Britain's Everyday Heroes" book launch of 24 July 2007, how much funding the Government have provided to local foundations for endowment funds since July 2007. [318356]

Angela E. Smith: The endowment funding is paid out retrospectively to match-fund donations raised in the local community.

At the end of September 2009, over £13 million had been received in donations from over 8500 businesses and individuals. This has been matched by an additional £11.3 million from Government match-funding, boosting the endowment to over £25 million. This £25 million will support important local community activity for many years to come.

Population: Greater London

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* margin and *(b)* degree of error was in the population estimates in the 2001 Census for (A) Slough and (B) each inner London borough. [320727]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Social Enterprises

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment she has made of the effects on social enterprises of the recent recession. [321240]

Tessa Jowell: Data from the sector show that since the economic downturn began 56 per cent. of social enterprises saw their turnovers increase compared to just 28 per cent. of SMEs. However, the Government recognises that this is a difficult time for some social enterprises that have experienced an increase in demand for their services and face pressure as a result of the downturn.

That is why the Government provided a comprehensive package of support to the third sector worth nearly £60 million:

> The £15 million Targeted Support Fund Grants element has provided additional support worth £1.55 million to 64 social enterprises.
>
> The £17.5 million Hardship Fund has provided grants to 195 organisations, including social enterprises, to help them deliver vital front line services.
>
> The £16.5 million Modernisation Fund is helping social enterprises become more resilient by facilitating merges, collaborative working and efficiencies. The Modernisation Fund has offered loans of £7.3 million to 40 organisations since April 2009.

An additional £20 million has been made available to social enterprise Community Development Finance Institutions through the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme.

This is in addition to Government support for social enterprises such as the first ever Social Enterprise Strategy ten years ago, to recent funds such as the Department for Health £100 million Social Enterprise Investment Fund and £1.3 million for Social Enterprise Action Research projects across government.

JUSTICE

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many full-time equivalent staff of each grade are employed by his Department to assist special advisers. [321139]

Mr. Straw: There are currently two members of staff employed to assist my special advisers: one full-time executive officer at band D and one part-time administrative officer at equivalent band E.

Health Services: Isle of Man

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will examine the matters raised by the Minister for Health and Social Security of the Isle of Man Government in Tynwald Court on 15 December 2009 in respect of the response of the Department of Health to written requests for information made by the Isle of Man Government on 7 September 2009, repeated on 15 October and 4 November 2009; what his duties are in respect of mediation between the administrations of the Crown Dependencies and Government departments; and if he will make a statement. [321493]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice is responsible for the relationship between the UK and the Crown Dependencies and provides the main channel of communication between the UK and the Crown Dependencies.

The termination of the bilateral health agreement and the matters raised by the Isle of Man Minister for Health and Social Security about bilateral health agreements are a matter for the Department of Health. There has been close examination of the issues at ministerial and officer level in my department and in the Department of Health. The Isle of Man Chief Minister has discussed the issue with the Secretary of State for Health and with Lord Bach.

The UK has committed to keep the situation under review with the Isle of Man Government in case of any unforeseen impacts after the end of the agreement.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what reasons his Department has not replied to the letter from the Isle of Man Government sent in 2009 requesting advice on the Isle of Man's wish to negotiate a bilateral health agreement with the Scottish Executive; and if he will make a statement. [321494]

Mr. Wills: I am not aware of a letter from the Isle of Man Government requesting advice from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) on the Isle of Man's wish to negotiate a bilateral health agreement with the Scottish Executive. I understand that the Isle of Man Department for Health and Social Security has been in contact with the Department of Health and with the Scottish Executive in connection with a new health agreement.

The development of any agreement between the Isle of Man and Scotland would, at this stage, be a matter for their respective administrations.

Royal Household

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Garter Banner uniforms, decorations and other related artefacts of Kaiser Wilhelm II which relate to his honorary rank as United Kingdom Field Marshal and Honorary Colonel-in-Chief of United Kingdom regiments prior to 1914 are in the custody of the Royal Household; and if he will make a statement. [321126]

Mr. Wills: The Garter Banner and other insignia of Kaiser Wilhelm II were removed from St. George's Chapel, Windsor during the first world war. We have been unable to ascertain their location. The stall plates of Kaiser Wilhelm II are still in place in St. George's Chapel. The Royal Collection has confirmed that it holds the Robe and Garter dress of Kaiser Wilhelm II as well as two diamond Garter Stars and Badge of Kaiser Wilhelm II. No other uniforms, decorations or related artefacts are held.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the uniforms, decorations and other related artefacts of HM King George V which relate to his honorary rank as a German Field Marshall or as Honorary Colonel of German regiments prior to 1914 are still in the custody of the Royal Household; and if he will make a statement. [321127]

Mr. Wills: The Royal Collection holds a number of items relating to the honorary ranks held by HM King George V in the German armed forces. Records show that uniforms relating to the ranks of Admiral of the Imperial German Navy, Prussian Field Marshall, Colonel in Chief of the 1st Guard Dragoon Regiment and Colonel in Chief of the Kürassier Regiment Graf Getzler (Rhine) No. 8 are held. The Royal Collection also holds a number of decorations: Order of St. Hubert (Bavaria), Order of the Wendish Crown (Mecklenburg), Order of the Black Eagle (Prussia), Order of the Red Eagle (Prussia), Hohenzollern House Order (Prussia), Saxe Ernestine Order (Saxe Coburg), Order of the White Falcon (Saxe Weimar) and Order of the Rue Crown (Saxony).

Trade Unions

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff his Department and its agencies are seconded to trade unions; what facilities are made available to them; how many days other staff of his Department and its agencies spent on trade union activity in the latest year for which figures are available; and what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of such activity. [320611]

Mr. Wills: Currently the Ministry has two employees on secondment to the PCS Trade Union and their salaries are reimbursed by the union. No other facilities are made available to them as they work at Public and Commercial Services (PCS) Headquarters.

Facilities Agreements between the Ministry of Justice and the Trade Union Sides follow the provisions of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 and the ACAS Code of Practice "Time off for Trade Union Duties and Activities" available at:

http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2391

The number of days that other staff spent on trade union activity within the last year, for which figures are available, is 43,208. The estimated annual total salary cost of such activity is £6.5 million.

Young Offenders: Rape

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many offenders of each age group were *(a)* convicted and *(b)* cautioned for (i) rape of a child under 13 and (ii) rape of a child under 16 in each of the last three years; [317738]

(2) how many offenders aged *(a)* 17 and under and *(b)* 18 and over were given a caution for rape in each of the last five years. [317739]

Mr. Straw: Information showing the number of offenders found guilty at all courts and cautioned for offences of rape of a child under 13 and under 16, by age group, England and Wales, from 2006 to 2008 (latest available) is shown in tables 1 and 2 as follows.

The number of offenders cautioned for rape, by age group, England and Wales, 2004 to 2008 (latest available) is shown in table 3 as follows.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication in the autumn, 2010.

Guidance on the use of simple cautions is clear that they should not be used for serious offences. In the vast majority of serious sexual offences a caution would not be appropriate and a prosecution would be in the public interest. The decision to caution an offender for an indictable-only offence such as rape will always be taken by the Crown Prosecution Service.

There will, however, always be exceptional cases in which it would not be in the interest of the victim or the public to prosecute, and in these circumstances administering a caution is considered to be preferable to taking no further action, and ensures that the offender is put on the sexual offenders' register and can be monitored. In some sexual offences cases, for example, it may be decided that the age, welfare or mental well-being of the victim or offender argues against putting them through a trial. In addition, children below the age of 13 cannot consent to sexual relations in law, and so such cases may be classified as rape even where the offence otherwise has the characteristics of a consenting sexual relationship.

Table 1: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for rape[1] of a child under 13 and under 16, by age group, England and Wales, 2006-08[2, 3]

Offence description	*2006*	*2007*	*2008[4]*
Age 10-17			
Rape of a child under 13	41	44	41
Rape of a child under 16	14	13	21
Sub-total	55	57	62
Age 18 and over			
Rape of a child under 13	76	84	133
Rape of a child under 16	220	246	234
Sub-total	296	330	367
All ages			
Rape of a child under 13	117	128	174
Rape of a child under 16	234	259	255

Table 1: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for rape[1] of a child under 13 and under 16, by age group, England and Wales, 2006-08[2, 3]

Offence description	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[4]
Total	351	387	429

[1] Excludes attempted rape.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces and the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Table 2: The number of offenders cautioned[1, 2] for rape[3] of a child under 13 and under 16, by age group, England and Wales, 2006-08[4]

Offence description	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Age 10-17			
Rape of a child under 13	12	23	22
Rape of a child under 16	1	2	4
Sub-total	13	25	26
Age 18 and over			
Rape of a child under 13	—	2	1
Rape of a child under 16	—	3	5
Sub-total	—	5	6
All ages			
Rape of a child under 13	12	25	23
Rape of a child under 16	1	5	9
Total	13	30	32

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[3] Excludes attempted rape.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Table 3: The number of offenders cautioned[1, 2] for rape[3], England and Wales, 2004-08[4]

Age group	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Age 10 to 17	20	17	13	25	26
Age 18 and over	16	3	6	7	9
All ages	36	20	19	32	35

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[3] Excludes attempted rape.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business

Tim Farron: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of businesses have employed *(a)* fewer than five people, *(b)* between five and 10 people, *(c)* between 10 and 20 people, *(d)* between 20 and 40 people, *(e)* between 40 and 70 people, *(f)* 70 people or more in (i) rural areas, (ii) urban areas and (iii) nationally in each year since 1997. [318297]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Estimates of the total number and percentage of businesses in the UK by employment band between 1997 and 2008 is shown in Table 1[1]. Estimates broken-down by rural and urban areas are not available for all UK businesses. However Table 2 shows estimates for businesses registered for either VAT and/or PAYE[2] between 2006 and 2008[3].

[1] Based on the start of the year and sourced from the publication 'Small and Medium Sized Enterprise Statistics for the UK and Regions', produced by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills. It is not possible to provide the information in the precise employee categories specified in the question.

[2] Based on the start of the year and information taken from the Office for National Statistics 'Inter Departmental Business Register' (IDBR).

[3] Data before 2006 is not available for businesses registered for either VAT and/or PAYE for urban and rural areas.

The number of UK businesses overall in all employee categories has increased by 1,076,000 (29 per cent.) between 1997 and 2008.

Table 1: Number and percentage of businesses by employee band for the UK private sector (1997 to 2008)

	Number of employees	*Less than 5*	*5 to 9*	*10 to 19*	*20 to [illegible]*	*50 to 99*	*100 or more*	*Total in UK private sector*
1997	Number of businesses	3,326,810	191,755	107,395	49,980	15,415	16,340	3,707,695
	Percentage of businesses	89.7	5.2	2.9	1.3	0.4	0.4	100.0
1998	Number of businesses	3,262,230	204,290	111,800	48,300	14,945	16,325	3,657,885

Table 1: Number and percentage of businesses by employee band for the UK private sector (1997 to 2008)

	Number of employees	*Less than 5*	*5 to 9*	*10 to 19*	*20 to 49*	*50 to 99*	*100 or more*	*Total in UK private sector*
	Percentage of businesses	89.2	5.6	3.1	1.3	0.4	0.4	100.0
1999	Number of businesses	3,287,955	201,835	109,280	46,955	14,450	16,470	3,676,940
	Percentage of businesses	89.4	5.5	3.0	1.3	0.4	0.4	100.0
2000	Number of businesses	3,330,460	206,090	108,075	46,155	15,700	16,130	3,722,610
	Percentage of businesses	89.5	5.5	2.9	1.2	0.4	0.4	100.0
2001	Number of businesses	3,344,050	200,320	112,695	54,845	18,130	16,300	3,746,340
	Percentage of businesses	89.3	5.3	3.0	1.5	0.5	0.4	100.0
2002	Number of businesses	3,390,720	206,135	113,580	53,440	18,020	15,830	3,797,725
	Percentage of businesses	89.3	5.4	3.0	1.4	0.5	0.4	100.0
2003	Number of businesses	3,625,825	202,965	105,845	54,800	16,230	15,720	4,021,390
	Percentage of businesses	90.2	5.0	2.6	1.4	0.4	0.4	100.0
2004	Number of businesses	3,885,620	205,855	104,190	55,390	16,500	15,290	4,282,845
	Percentage of businesses	90.7	4.8	2.4	1.3	0.4	0.4	100.0
2005	Number of businesses	3,941,300	207,225	106,020	54,955	17,160	15,380	4,342,045
	Percentage of businesses	90.8	4.8	2.4	1.3	0.4	0.4	100.0
2006	Number of businesses	4,062,990	205,260	110,050	55,930	17,090	15,380	4,466,700
	Percentage of businesses	91.0	4.6	2.5	1.3	0.4	0.3	100.0
2007	Number of businesses	4,272,060	207,595	111,165	55,655	17,145	15,465	4,679,080
	Percentage of businesses	91.3	4.4	2.4	1.2	0.4	0.3	100.0
2008	Number of businesses	4,354,905	223,585	116,645	55,415	17,105	15,630	4,783,285
	Percentage of businesses	91.0	4.7	2.4	1.2	0.4	0.3	100.0

Source:

'Small and Medium Sized Enterprises for the UK and Regions'—Department for Business Innovation and Skills

Table 2: Number of businesses registered for either VAT and/or PAYE by employee size band and urban/rural area (2006 to 2008)

Year (start of)	*Number of employees*	*Less than 5*	*5 to 9*	*10 to 19*	*20 to 39*	*40 to 69*	*70 and over*	*Total in UK private sector*
2006	Urban	1,125,865	148,985	82,170	34,855	15,050	18,535	1,425,460
	Rural	584,500	56,275	27,880	11,185	4,475	4,295	688,610
	Total	1,710,365	205,260	110,050	46,040	19,525	22,830	2,114,070
2007	Urban	1,127,625	149,360	82,420	34,755	14,870	18,675	1,427,705

Table 2: Number of businesses registered for either VAT and/or PAYE by employee size band and urban/rural area (2006 to 2008)

Year (start of)	*Number of employees*	*Less than 5*	*5 to 9*	*10 to 19*	*20 to 39*	*40 to 69*	*70 and over*	*Total in UK private sector*
	Rural	581,560	58,235	28,745	11,115	4,495	4,350	688,500
	Total	1,709,185	207,595	111,165	45,870	19,365	23,025	2,116,205
2008	Urban	1,180,290	160,635	86,335	34,235	14,890	18,670	1,495,055
	Rural	591,240	62,950	30,310	11,360	4,525	4,465	704,850
	Total	1,771,530	223,585	116,645	45,595	19,415	23,135	2,199,905

Source:

Data extracted from the Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR)—Office for National Statistics

These VAT/PAYE data under-estimate the number of businesses in the smaller employment size categories, since they exclude those businesses that are not employers or are too small to register for VAT.

Tim Farron: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of businesses were registered for VAT in *(a)* rural areas, *(b)* urban areas and *(c)* nationally on each year since 1997; and how many businesses were de-registered for VAT in each case in each such year. [318298]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Estimates of the number and proportions of annual VAT registrations, de-registrations and the total number of VAT registered[1] businesses (stock) at the start of each year (1997-2007) in the UK, is shown in Table 1.

Additional information is also provided showing the number of annual registrations, de-registrations and the total number of VAT registered businesses by urban/rural area[2] at the start of each year (1997 to 2007) and shown in Table 2.

The total stock of VAT registered businesses in the UK increased by 396,000 (24 per cent.) between 1997 and 2008.

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[1] Sourced from the BIS publications 'Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations' and 'Small and Medium Sized Enterprises for the UK and Regions'.

[2] Figures were taken from the inter departmental business register (IDBR) produced by the Office for National Statistics. They are not directly comparable with those shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Number of VAT registrations, de-registrations, total number of VAT registered businesses and percentage of Total UK private sector that are VAT Registered (1997-2008)

	Number of new VAT registrations	*Number of new VAT de-registrations*	*Total number of VAT registered businesses (start of the year)*	*Total number of UK private sector businesses (start of the year)*	*VAT registered businesses as a percentage off UK total private sector (start of the year)*
1997	181,530	140,850	1,635,385	3,707,695	44.1
1998	180,740	139,800	1,676,065	3,657,885	45.8
1999	175,615	143,055	1,717,005	3,676,940	46.7
2000	177,770	147,700	1,749,570	3,722,610	47.0
2001	169,230	147,525	1,779,640	3,746,370	47.5
2002	176,205	154,040	1,801,345	3,797,725	47.4
2003	191,535	153,455	1,823,510	4,021,390	45.3
2004	184,010	149,695	1,861,590	4,282,845	43.5
2005	182,380	142,830	1,895,900	4,342,045	43.7
2006	182,055	144,285	1,935,450	4,466,700	43.3
2007	205,725	147,800	[illegible]73,220	4,679,080	42.2
2008	n/a	n/a	2,031,145	4,783,285	42.5

Source:

'Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and de-registrations' and 'small and medium sized enterprise statistics for the UK and regions'—Department for Business Innovation and Skills

Table 2: Number of VAT registrations, de-registrations and total number of VAT registered businesses by urban/rural area (1997-2008)

Year	*Number of urban based new VAT registrations*	*Number of rural based new VAT registrations*	*Number of urban based new VAT de-registrations*	*Number of rural based new VAT de-registrations*	*Total number of urban based VAT registered businesses (start of the year)*	*Total number of rural based VAT registered businesses (start of the year)*
1997	135,990	46,730	107,610	36,950	1,082,730	556,170
1998	136,980	45,300	109,025	35,760	1,111,110	565,950
1999	132,895	44,430	112,235	37,185	1,139,070	575,490
2000	134,315	45,450	117,135	38,480	1,159,725	58[illegible]
2001	127,395	43,630	118,160	38,650	1,176,905	589,705
2002	130,310	46,645	127,005	43,285	1,186,140	594,685
2003	141,045	50,395	126,190	44,150	1,189,445	598,045

Table 2: Number of VAT registrations, de-registrations and total number of VAT registered businesses by urban/rural area (1997-2008)

Year	*Number of urban based new VAT registrations*	*Number of rural based new VAT registrations*	*Number of urban based new VAT de-registrations*	*Number of rural based new VAT de-registrations*	*Total number of urban based VAT registered businesses (start of the year)*	*Total number of rural based VAT registered businesses (start of the year)*
2004	134,845	47,590	121,330	42,260	1,204,300	604,290
2005	131,740	46,740	120,125	42,515	1,215,835	609,575
2006	128,850	45,485	126,425	45,720	1,227,450	613,805
2007	136,260	46,175	130,690	48,855	1,229,870	613,570
2008	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,235,940	610,890

Source:
Data extracted from the inter departmental business register (IDBR)—Office for National Statistics

Business: Government Assistance

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times the panel established to monitor lending to small businesses has met since 1 November 2008. [317253]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since the Monitoring Panel was established in November 2008, officials from BIS, HMT and the Bank of England have continued to meet on a monthly basis to monitor lending to small businesses. The key findings from these meetings are reported at the Small Business Finance Forum.

David Mundell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding has been disbursed to businesses from the Capital for Enterprise Fund to date; and how much such funding has been disbursed to companies registered in Scotland. [318370]

Ms Rosie Winterton: To date there have been 23 investments from the Capital for Enterprise Fund (CfEF) with a value of £33.8. million. A further five businesses have accepted the terms offered by the CfEF with a value of £9.1 million and await final due diligence and completion.

There have been five investments made in Scotland with a value of £6.8 million.

David Mundell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications for funding under the Capital for Enterprise Fund have been approved to date; and how many such applications have been made by companies registered in Scotland. [318371]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Out of the applications received to date there have been 23 investments from the Capital for Enterprise fund with a value of £33.8 million.

There have been five applications leading to investment made in Scotland with a value of £6.8 million.

David Mundell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications for funding from the Capital for Enterprise Fund have been received to date; and how many of such applications were from companies registered in Scotland. [318436]

Ms Rosie Winterton: To date there have been 1,013 applications for funding under the Capital for Enterprise Fund with a value of £1,179.3 million.

There have been 76 applications in Scotland with a value of £100.8 million.

Business: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* small business start-up schemes and *(b)* other assistance schemes are available to assist businesses in Salford constituency. [317733]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) is a facility for additional lending to viable SMEs that sit on the margins of commercial lending decisions due to lack of security or track record. It enables loan facilities of between £1,000 and £1 million, to SMEs with a turnover of up to £25 million. EFG may be used to enable new terms loans, refinancing of existing term loans, overdraft conversion, guarantees on invoice facilities, and guarantees on new or increased overdraft borrowing. Businesses are advised to approach one or more of the 44 approved EFG lenders, which includes the main UK high street banks to discuss their lending needs. However, all decisions on individual lending are at the discretion of the lender. Further details on EFG are on the BIS website:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/enterprise/finance/efg/page37607.html

As of 10 February 2010, 12 businesses in the Salford constituency have been offered EFG loans totalling £1.3 million.

Companies: Registration

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reason the filing times for accounts at Companies House for limited companies has been changed from 10 months after the accounting year end to nine months; and if he will make a statement. [321411]

Ian Lucas: The reduction of one month in filing times was effected for all companies as part of the modernisation of the accounting regulations to reflect the fact that companies could now report electronically and as a way of providing information to interested parties on a more timely basis but without imposing undue burdens. In the case of both large and small company accounting regulations, there was no opposition to this change.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any written instructions have been provided to the accounting officer for his Department and its predecessors in accordance with paragraph 5.5 of the ministerial code since May 1997. [315314]

Mr. McFadden: Written instructions to the BIS accounting officer and his predecessors under paragraph 5.5 of the ministerial code (called an accounting officer direction) have been issued on nine occasions since May 1997.

Departmental Consultants

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much consultants employed by his Department and its agencies have been paid *(a)* in total and *(b)* in reimbursable expenses since its inception. [314001]

Mr. McFadden: Central records indicate that the Department paid a total of £6,354,203 in consultancy fees since its inception (announced on 5 June 2009) to 31 December 2009.

I have approached the Chief Executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to hon. Member directly.

Further details, regarding reimbursable expenses, are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 28 January 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 25 January 2010, UIN 314001, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House has paid consultants a total £95,525 since the inception of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in June 2009 and £8,417 of that amount was in reimbursable expenses.

Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated 27 January 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 25 January 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office became an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on 5 June 2009. Since that time it has spent £48,000 on consultants; this figure includes £14,000 in reimbursable expenses.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 23 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question asking the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, how much consultants employed by his Department and its agencies have been paid (a) in total and (b) in reimbursable expenses since its inception.

The National Measurement Office became an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when it was established on 5 June 2009. Our records indicate that since that date we have paid £159,361 to external consultants (using the OGC definition of those who supply advice related to the Agency's strategy, structure, management or operations). The reimbursable expenses of such consultants are not separately identified in our accounting system.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 10 March 2010:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question "how much consultants employed by his Department and its agencies have been paid (a) in total and (b) in reimbursable expenses since its inception".

The Insolvency Service has employed consultants since the inception of The Department for Business Innovation and Skills in the period from June 2009 to 31 December 2009, at a cost of £29,546. There were no reimbursable expenses.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many designs for its website his Department and its predecessors have commissioned since 2005. [318659]

Mr. McFadden: The Department and its predecessors have commissioned five website designs since 2005.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) website was redesigned in 2006 and again in 2008 to reflect the newly created Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). An interim website design was commissioned for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) in June 2007. This design was updated in March 2009. Designs were commissioned for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) website in July 2009. The current BIS website is an interim site, based on these designs and was developed in house. The revised BIS website will go live in March 2010.

Insolvency: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses employing fewer than 50 people were declared insolvent in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency in (i) each of the last 12 months and (ii) each of the last five years. [321443]

Ian Lucas: Official Statistics covering corporate insolvencies are not currently available at a sub-national level within England and Wales.

Additionally, the number of employees from which small businesses may be identified is not recorded on the source datasets.

Self-employed traders may be declared bankrupt (or enter into an individual voluntary arrangement (IVA)), and the table shows the available information for each of the last five years.

Bankruptcies among sole traders

	Area[1]	
	Essex	*Castle Point*
2004	316	14
2005	233	11
2006	306	13
2007	308	16
2008	303	14

[1] Where bankrupt has provided a valid postcode (94.5 per cent. in 2004 to 96.9 per cent. in 2008)

Figures for 2009 are not currently available. Nor are equivalent figures for IVAs. Monthly statistics are not maintained.

Maternity Leave: Greater Manchester

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what percentage of women resident in the City of Manchester have taken one or more periods of 26 weeks maternity leave since 1997. [320874]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 8 March 2010]:* From April 2007 all employed mothers are entitled to 52 weeks maternity leave, of which 39 may be paid. Employers are not required to record or report the uptake of maternity leave to the Government.

The most recent estimates of take-up of maternity leave are based on the DWP "Maternity Rights and Mothers' employment decisions in Britain: Survey of Mothers" (2007). In 2006, when the mothers included in the study went on maternity leave, the statutory entitlement to ordinary maternity leave (OML) was 26 weeks, while mothers who had worked for their employer for a qualifying period of 26 weeks were also entitled to additional maternity leave (AML) of 26 weeks. The Office for National Statistics estimates that in 2006 there were 7,268 live births to women in the Manchester. The employment rate for women of working age (16 to 59) in Manchester in 2006 was 58.5 per cent.

For mothers in Great Britain taking maternity leave in 2006:

84 per cent. took 26 weeks or more maternity leave;

35 per cent. took exactly 26 weeks maternity leave;

46 per cent. of mothers took between 27 and 52 weeks and 3 per cent. were off for more than 52 weeks.

16 per cent. of mothers took less than the statutory minimum entitlement (ie 26 weeks in 2006)

The next "Maternity Rights" survey will be based on mothers who took maternity leave starting in summer 2008. It is due to report later in 2010. The "Maternity Rights" survey sample is not large enough to produce robust estimates at constituency or county levels.

Met Office

John Thurso: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Defence on the future of the Met Office. [321359]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend the Secretary of State has not had any recent discussions with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence on the future of the Met Office.

Mobile Phones: Health Hazards

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what studies his Department has carried out on the specific absorption rate of mobile telephones; [321408]

(2) for what reasons the maximum specific absorption rate for mobile telephone radiation has been set at 2W/kg; and if he will consider the merits of reducing it to 1.6W/kg; [321409]

(3) if he will introduce regulations requiring mobile telephone manufacturers to display prominently and advertise the specific absorption rate of radiation energy for each model they manufacture. [321410]

Mr. Timms: The Government supported basic work to underpin the development of technical standards for assessing the specific absorption rate (SAR) from mobile phones, including several projects in the late 1990s. More recently, the Government have supported work through the Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research programme, and information about this programme is available on its website:

www.mthr.org.uk

The Department looks to the Health Protection Agency (HPA) to advise on appropriate standards for protection from exposure to the radio waves from mobile phones. HPA advice is that the guidelines of the International Commission on non-ionizing radiation protection (ICNIRP) should be adopted in the UK.

Advice on the availability of SAR values from mobile phones was given in the May 2000 report from the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones (Stewart Report) and an update was given in the Mobile Phones and Health 2004 Report from NRPB (now merged into the Health protection Agency).

In addition, the UK's five mobile network operators, namely Orange, T-Mobile, 3 UK, 02 and Vodafone, have resources within their customer service departments to provide information and advice to users regarding specific absorption rate (SAR) values on handsets.

Information about SAR values is available on manufacturers' websites and also on the mobile manufacturers forum (MMF) website:

www.mmfai.org

National Investment Corporation

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department sought any external legal and financial advice in relation to negotiations with *(a)* retail and *(b)* investment banks on the proposed National Investment Corporation. [318902]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department sought external advice on possible fund and investment structures before discussions with both retail and investment banks. The Department is continuing to seek advice as negotiations continue.

Public Sector: Billing

Mr. Binley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* Government departments, *(b)* local authorities, *(c)* primary care trusts, *(d)* educational institutions and *(e)* Government agencies have signed up to his Department's Prompt Payment Code. [317705]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Institute of Credit Management developed and operates the Prompt Payment Code. As of 12 February 2010, 22 Government Departments, 145 local authorities, 249 NHS bodies and 36 other bodies (which include educational institutions and Government agencies) were signatories to the code.

The latest list of signatories is provided on the ICM website and can be viewed via the following link:

http://212.36.97.5/ppc/signatory.a4d?uid=634062674

Public Sector: Procurement

Mr. Binley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of small businesses which have contracts with *(a)* Government departments, *(b)* local authorities, *(c)* primary care trusts, *(d)* education institutions and *(e)* Government agencies. [317704]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not hold the information requested and an estimate could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Students: Newcastle upon Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students received non-repayable maintenance grants from Newcastle City Council in each year since 2004-05; what the average grant received by such students was in each such year; how much was awarded in total in each such year; and how many and what proportion of those in receipt received a partial award as a result of means testing. [320710]

Mr. Lammy: The information is shown in the tables.

Grants for maintenance - Newcastle-upon-Tyne Local Authority[1]

Academic Year	*Grant*		*Total*
2004-05	HE Grant	Applicants (number)	590
		Award Amount (£)	510,000
		Average (£)	860
2005-06	HE Grant	Applicants (number)	1,050
		Award Amount (£)	940,000
		Average (£)	900
2006-07	HE Grant	Applicants (number)	820
		Award Amount (£)	750,000
		Average (£)	910
	Maintenance Grant[2]		
		Applicants (number)	940
		Award Amount (£)	2,000,000
		Average (£)	2,130
2007-08	HE Grant	Applicants (number)	490
		Award Amount (£)	440,000
		Average (£)	890
	Maintenance Grant[2]		
		Applicants (number)	1,690
		Award Amount (£)	3,670,000
		Average (£)	2,170
2008-09	HE Grant	Applicants (number)	140
		Award Amount (£)	130,000
		Average (£)	890
	Maintenance Grant[2]		
		Applicants (number)	2,520
		Award Amount (£)	5,620,000
		Average (£)	2,230

[1] Table covers approved applicants awarded a grant, amounts show award entitlement amounts. Applicant figures rounded to nearest 10, award amounts to nearest £10,000, averages to nearest £10

[2] Maintenance Grant includes Special Support Grant

Source:

Student Loans Company

Full and Partial grants for maintenance - Newcastle-Upon-Tyne Local Authority[1]

Academic Year	*Grant*	*Applicants*			*Percentage of those awarded a grant*		
		Full Grant	*Partial grant*	*Total*	*Full Grant*	*Partial grant*	*Total*
2004-05	HE Grant	500	90	590	85	15	100
2005-06	HE Grant	900	140	1,050	86	14	100
2006-07	HE Grant	710	110	820	87	13	100
	Maintenance Grant[2]	600	340	940	64	36	100
2007-08	HE Grant	420	70	490	86	14	100
	Maintenance Grant[2]	1,120	570	1,690	66	34	100
2008-09	HE Grant	120	20	140	85	15	100

Full and Partial grants for maintenance - Newcastle-Upon-Tyne Local Authority[1]

Academic Year	*Grant*	*Applicants*			*Percentage of those awarded a grant*		
		Full Grant	*Partial grant*	*Total*	*Full Grant*	*Partial grant*	*Total*
	Maintenance Grant[2]	1,660	860	2,520	66	34	100

[1] Table covers approved applicants awarded a grant. Numbers are rounded to nearest 10 so components may not sum to totals

[2] Maintenance Grant includes Special Support Grant

Source:

Student Loans Company

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 11 March 2010

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund

Simon Hughes: To ask the Leader of the House what recent discussions she has had with the trustees of the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund on its exercise of shareholder voting rights during annual general meetings of those companies in which it invests. [321533]

Barbara Keeley: The Leader has not had any recent discussions with the Trustees on this subject. The investment of the assets of the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund is a matter for the Fund's Trustees. The scheme regulations require the Trustees to have in place a Statement of Investment Principles and to consult with the Leader about it.

The current Statement of Investment Principles states that the Trustees have instructed their investment managers

> "to exercise the rights attached to the Fund's investments in order to ensure, so far as is consistent with the Trustees' duty to act in the best financial interests of the beneficiaries, that the companies in which the Fund is invested adopt high standards"

in relation to a

> "responsible approach to social, ethical and environmental issues".

NORTHERN IRELAND

Criminal Proceedings

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how long on average it took the Northern Ireland Public Prosecution Service to bring a criminal case to court following the submission of papers by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in the last three years. [321465]

Paul Goggins: This is an operational matter for the Acting Director of Public Prosecutions. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department's buildings in each year since 2005. [320567]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) contributes data annually to the NI Public Sector Energy Campaign (PSEC) regarding energy consumption.

The most up-to-date figures on carbon dioxide emissions are contained within the 2007-08 PSEC report and are shown in the following table:

	CO_2 total
	Tonnes
2007-08	1,546
2006-07	1,873
2005-06	1,616
2004-05	1,751

The Department has a Green ICT strategy in place, derived from the Cabinet Office "Greening Government ICT" strategy, to assist in reducing energy consumption and emissions.

The Department participates in Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF) to offset emissions relating to air travel by Ministers and staff on official business.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many designs for its *(a)* internal website and *(b)* intranet his Department has commissioned since 2005; and what the cost was of each such design. [321982]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) maintains an internal intranet. Since 2005 the homepage has been redesigned at a cost of £7,040 and the content management system upgraded at a cost of £1,760. Two further updates were carried out by departmental ICT staff at no additional cost.

Prisoners: Ex-servicemen

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of the Northern Ireland prison population formerly served in the UK armed forces. [321214]

Paul Goggins: While all prisoners are asked their occupation on committal, there is no requirement for prisoners to disclose this information. Of those currently in prison, 0.36 per cent. (five persons) have stated their occupation as being in the armed forces or protective services.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals paid off arrears to the Child Support Agency by credit card in each of the last three years. [318744]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many individuals paid off their arrears to the Child Support Agency by credit card in each of the last three years. [318744]

Data on child maintenance arrears payments made only by credit card is not available as it is not possible to separate regular and arrears payments and it is not possible to break down payments made by credit or debit card.

I am sorry on this occasion I can not be more helpful.

Housing Benefit: Greater London

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average housing benefit paid to *(a)* local authority tenants, *(b)* housing association tenants and *(c)* private sector tenants was in each London borough in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average rent level was in each of the three sectors in that period. [321076]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 11 March 2010]:* The most recent available information is in the table.

Average weekly housing benefit paid to local authority tenants, registered social landlord tenants and private sector tenants in London boroughs: November 2009

£

Local authority	*Local authority tenants*	*Registered social landlord tenants*	*Private tenants*	*All tenancy types*
Camden	93.08	115.23	211.99	118.67
City of London	86.40	102.98	174.18	97.24
Hackney	91.68	108.11	194.93	120.33
Hammersmith and Fulham	90.72	124.58	196.77	124.77
Haringey	121.10	119.23	157.60	132.78
Islington	91.14	111.00	194.00	109.26
Kensington and Chelsea	123.75	117.47	274.64	154.47
Lambeth	107.44	99.94	148.65	112.94
Lewisham	86.22	90.81	162.65	109.08
Newham	132.36	121.84	167.97	142.92
Southwark	82.95	104.36	147.75	95.94
Tower Hamlets	121.78	100.57	193.32	119.57
Wandsworth	103.62	109.48	215.40	135.71
Westminster	97.73	127.03	310.74	182.54
Barking and Dagenham	86.52	102.39	158.61	107.69
Barnet	85.61	138.18	184.16	145.27
Bexley	266.29	89.38	148.43	110.33
Brent	108.77	145.21	199.75	159.12
Bromley	—	97.96	143.12	110.48
Croydon	88.38	103.44	154.47	121.48
Ealing	121.71	120.37	178.32	141.57
Enfield	122.99	110.83	179.10	147.84
Greenwich	76.44	96.58	146.17	94.15
Harrow	81.11	143.85	180.14	147.75
Havering	84.54	90.94	149.34	104.98
Hillingdon	115.65	100.24	164.66	129.48
Hounslow	92.77	102.00	173.07	119.28
Kingston upon Thames	113.46	103.38	175.40	134.13
Merton	80.99	101.67	156.66	115.23
Redbridge	159.50	106.05	163.35	152.43
Richmond upon Thames	241.47	91.19	175.53	119.15
Sutton	76.83	95.32	151.45	107.21
Waltham Forest	105.49	99.94	149.23	119.36

Average weekly housing benefit paid to local authority tenants, registered social landlord tenants and private sector tenants in London boroughs: November 2009

Notes:

1. Data as at second Thursday of the month.

2. Average amounts of housing benefit are shown as pounds per week and rounded to the nearest penny.

3. Housing association tenants are shown as registered social landlord tenants.

4. Tenure type does not include recipients with unknown tenure type.

5. "—" denotes nil cases.

6. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.

7. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and October 2009 is the most recent available.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE).

TREASURY

Climate Change Levy

Charles Hendry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value of receipts from the Climate Change Levy has been in each of the last five years. [321254]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Final outturns of climate change levy receipts are published at Budget in table C.6 in chapter C "The public Finances" for each fiscal year.

Public Bodies

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the recommendation in the Public Accounts Committee report on the Equality and Human Rights Commission published on 4 March 2010 that his Department should draw up best practice guidelines for the creation of public sector bodies. [321600]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government's response will be set out alongside responses to the other Committee of Public Accounts' conclusions and recommendations from its Fifteenth Report in a Treasury Minute in due course.

Tax Allowances: Energy

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has plans to amend the categories of equipment eligible for support under the Enhanced Capital Allowance Energy Scheme to include low energy loss distribution transformers. [321626]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Enhanced Capital Allowances scheme for energy saving technologies is dynamic and kept under regular review. Updates and changes to the EGA schemes are normally announced at Budget.

Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many submissions were received to the technical consultation on the draft legislation and guidance on the ending of Furnished Holiday Lettings relief which closed on 26 February 2010; and how many of those submissions expressed views in favour of the Government's proposals. [321332]

Mr. Timms: None of the responses to the technical consultation on the proposed legislation to repeal the Furnished Holiday Lettings (FHL) rules identified any technical difficulties with the draft legislation which was published at the 2009 pre-Budget report. Therefore there are no plans to publish a full report on the findings from this informal consultation.

The Treasury receives representations on a range of policy issues. As was the case with the previous Administration, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of such representations.

The Government acknowledge that this change has not been welcomed by the tourism industry. However, for legal reasons, a change is necessary.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Consultants

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether consultants have been contracted to carry out public participation activity on behalf of his Department in the last three years; and, if so, how much was spent in each case. [319763]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government Olympic Executive in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport runs an East London digital network. This is an on-line forum for invited members of the public to give their opinions and ideas and is one of the key ways in which Government are meeting their promise to engage with local people about what they want from the Olympics and ensure that Government policy reflects their views.

The cost of the project, including the contracting of consultants stands at £111,759.20 exclusive of VAT.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme: Gordon

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many enquiries from households in Gordon constituency have been received by the Digital UK Help Scheme; and how many of those households were eligible to receive the digital conversion service free of charge. [321650]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Switchover Help Scheme receives eligibility data from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and is only able to report statistically at an ITV region level. The provision of help scheme eligibility data at both country and local level is a matter for the DWP. The help scheme estimates around 170,000 people in the STV North TV Region will be eligible to receive help. It is estimated that 37 per cent. of the 170,000 eligible people in the STV North TV Region are entitled to receive the help for free. The numbers of help scheme eligible people and people entitled to receive the help for free in this region are likely to change between now and when the last STV North transmitter switches in October 2010.

Irish Language Broadcast Fund: Expenditure

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has provided to the Irish Language Broadcast Fund in each of the last five years. [321213]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department acted as the conduit through which the UK Government paid £3 million for the Irish Language Broadcasting Fund in 2009-10. Funding was provided through the UK Film Council.

Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Stroud constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [321475]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport's aim is to improve the quality of life for everyone through cultural and sporting activities, to support the pursuit of excellence and to champion the tourism, creative and leisure industries.

The impact of bodies and policies of the Department on the Stroud constituency since 2000 include:

£156,862 given from Arts Council England to organisations based in Stroud in 2008-09 through the Grants for the Arts programme.

£121,000 of English Heritage grant offers to the Stroud constituency in 2008-09.

Digital Switchover is due to take place in Stroud in April 2010. By the time switchover is complete at the end of 2012, 98.5 per cent. of households nationwide will be able to receive digital TV—the same number that can currently receive analogue.

Over £18,046,315 of national lottery grants made to applications from the Stroud constituency since 2000.

The Stroud constituency has also benefitted from other policies and spending whose impact cannot be broken down by constituency. This includes:

£4 billion of Exchequer funding spent on culture.

More than £5.5 billion invested in sport by the Government and the national lottery since 1997.

Almost 750,000 free swims taken in London in the first eight months of the Free Swimming programme.

A 68 per cent. increase in national museum visits from 1998-99 to 2008-09—10 per cent. of which were by adults from lower socio-economic groups.

£416.6 million in grants allocated by English Heritage since 1997.

48 per cent. of buildings on the original 1999 Buildings at Risk Register having their future secured.

90 per cent. of all pupils taking part in at least two hours of high quality PE or sport per week in 2008 from an estimated 25 per cent. in 2003-04—exceeding our target.

Trade Unions

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department and its agencies are seconded to trade unions; what facilities are made available to them; how many days other staff of his Department and its agencies spent on trade union activity in the latest year for which figures are available; and what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of such activity. [320610]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Royal Parks Agency do not have any employees seconded to trade unions.

Both DCMS and the Royal Parks provide facility time for local trade union officials.

The annual cost of trade union facility time for DCMS is up to £25,952.

The annual cost of trade union activity for the Royal Parks is up to £29,333.

There are no figures available for the number of days other staff spend on trade union activity. To obtain such information would incur a disproportionate cost.

Ulster Scots: Expenditure

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has provided for the promotion and development of Ulster Scots language and culture in each of the last five years. [321208]

Mr. Bradshaw: None, but under the terms of the BBC's charter and agreement, the BBC Trust must have regard to the importance of ensuring appropriate provision in minority languages. Funding to enable the BBC to provide minority languages is included in the BBC's funding settlement, which is set by my Department, although my Department does not specify the amounts that the BBC must spend in this area.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Security

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* effect on time taken for passengers to pass through security of the use of different types of scanners used to detect liquids. [321187]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has been working with the European Civil Aviation Conference and other international partners to test the effectiveness of liquid screening technologies and final results will be available by the end of the year.

The Department has also undertaken several studies on the time taken for passengers to pass through liquid detection systems, the results of which have been used to define options for the deployment of liquid detection machines and also to guide manufacturers on how the performance of the machines might be improved.

Departmental Advertising

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department has spent on advertisements on television and commercial radio on campaigns run by the Department since 2005. [317100]

Chris Mole: The majority of television and radio advertising media expenditure by the Department for Transport is in support of the THINK! Road safety and the Act on CO_2 campaigns. Among the Department's executive agencies, the most prominent use of advertising has been by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, in support of Electronic Vehicle Licensing, Sale of Marks and Vehicle Excise Enforcement (Continuous Registration).

The information sought is not held in the format requested by all parts of the Department and can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Information available is included in the following table:

£000

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Television advertising				
DFT(C)	6,889	5,171	8,002	8,171
DSA	0	0	0	0
DVLA	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,800
GCDA	0	0	0	0
HA	0	0	0	0
MCA	25	4	15	13
VCA	0	0	0	0
VOSA	0	0	0	0
Radio advertising				
DFT(C)	2,011	2,578	2,511	3,089
DSA	0	0	0	41
DVLA	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,400
GCDA	0	0	0	0
HA	n/a	n/a	40	66
MCA	0	0	0	0
VCA	0	0	0	0
VOSA	0	0	0	0

Departmental Energy

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the estimated *(a)* amount and *(b)* cost was of energy used in his Department and its agencies in each year since 1997; what proportion of the energy used was generated from renewable sources in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [317236]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport was formed in 2002 and therefore no records exist for the Department prior to that date.

The following tables show the electricity, gas and other fuels used by the Department for Transport and its Agencies since 2004-05.

Total electricity

Business unit	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	kWh 2008-09
Central Department	8,073,203	9,187,270	8,039,848	7,522,387	7,472,014
Executive Agencies	34,810,758	36,567,277	39,721,844	37,988,465	42,271,338
DfT total	42,883,961	45,754,547	47,761,692	45,510,852	49,743,352

The following table gives the percentage of electricity consumed by the Department that came from renewable resources for each of the last five years.

Electricity from renewable resources

Business unit	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Percentage 2008-09
DfT	68	74	66	62.5	53

The reducing percentage of electricity from renewable resources depicted above is as a result of a change in the main supply contract from Buying Solutions which now has a reduced renewable allowance in order to ensure renewable energy is available in the private sector.

Total gas

Business unit	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	kWh 2008-09
Central Department	1,183,339	1,743,451	893,005	970,130	1,144,174
Executive Agencies	29,967,416	46,974,572	42,517,851	48,308,845	52,890,398
DfT total	31,150,755	48,718,023	43,410,856	49,278,975	54,034,572

Total other fuels

Business unit	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	kWh 2008-09
Central Department	421,858	450,079	448,200	390,760	211,385
Executive Agencies	1,639,613	219,000	2,746,182	2,819,862	2,496,956
DfT total	2,061,471	669,079	3,194,382	3,210,622	2,708,341

Part of the progressive increases shown in the above tables is accounted for by improvements in the standard of data collection.

The following table provides the total annual cost of the energy used in the above tables.

Total fuels

Business unit	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	£ 2008-09
Central Department	1,261,721.52	[illegible]931,567.00	1,124,339.31	870,380.58	1,031,824.05
Executive Agencies	2,371,574.30	[illegible]76.64	4,237,074.20	5,195,331.01	7,238,984.25
DfT total	3,633,295.82	[illegible]43.64	5,361,413.51	6,065,711.59	8,270,808.30

In addition to the above listed energy use the Highways Agency is responsible for the provision of roadside technology and lighting which incurred £23.9 million in energy costs in 2008-09. It is not possible to provide consumption data for this facet of departmental activity.

Departmental Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many staff from BAA *(a)* are seconded to his Department and *(b)* were so seconded in each of the last five years; what the roles were of such personnel; and if he will make a statement. [320137]

Chris Mole: The Department's records indicate that no staff from BAA have been seconded to the Department for Transport in the last five years.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many thefts from his Department have been recorded in the last two years. [318998]

Chris Mole: The figure provided here is for all items recorded as stolen in the past two years and is for the entire Department for Transport including its agencies and shared service centre. The figure provided do[illegible] not include thefts where records are not available centrally, or such thefts that were not reported. While some of this information may exist in records held locally within the central Department and the agencies, it could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Central records show that since 10 February 2008, 76 items have been reported stolen. Of these 54 were reported stolen from within departmental premises.

The Department has in place access control measures in accordance with cabinet office guidance, issues staff awareness guidance on its Intranet and provides lockable pedestals and personal lockers. Reminders on security awareness are also disseminated to employees via security liaison officers within the Department teams.

Official Cars: Senior Civil Servants

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the annual cost to the public purse is of the provision by the Government Car and Despatch Agency of official cars with drivers to senior civil servants. [318635]

Paul Clark: The annual cost of providing official cars to senior civil servants by the Government Car and Despatch Agency is £371,379.00.

Roads: Litter

Mr. Soames: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will take steps to bring A-roads under the responsibility of the Highways Agency for the purposes of removal of roadside litter. [320963]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency retains responsibility for litter collection on the motorways and also on some all purpose trunk roads. A list of these roads has been placed in the Libraries of the House. The Highways Agency will continue to collaborate with local authorities to ensure the effective removal of roadside litter.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much of the £6 billion allocated has been spent on completion of schemes funded under the first tranche of the National Roads Programme. [316869]

Chris Mole: The following table gives the amount spent on completing work on the first tranche of schemes out of the up to £6 billion allocated to the National Roads Programme in the January 2009 Roads Announcement.

Amount allocated from £6 billion national roads programme

	£ million
M6 Carlisle to Guardsmill	31.4
M1 J6a-10 Widening	82.5
A14 Haughley New Street to Stowmarket	14.0
M62 J6 Improvements	14.7
M25 J1b-3 widening	15.1
A5117/A550Deeside Park Junction improvement	23.3
A1 Bramham to Wetherby	31.8
Total	212.7

Thameslink Railway Line

Patrick Hall: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what proportion of the increase in capacity provided by the Thameslink Programme will be attributable to the *(a)* Key Output 0, *(b)* Key Output 1 and *(c)* Key Output 2 phase. [321211]

Chris Mole: Key Output 0 has already delivered an increase of 2,500 seats in each peak period. The Key Output 1 service, from December 2011, will increase the capacity into central London initially by approximately a further 1,000 seats in each peak period.

As the new Key Output 2 trains are progressively brought on to the rail network, capacity will increase in to the central London section of the Thameslink route by up to approximately 30,000 additional seats in each peak period.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the use of Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund money by Nottinghamshire county council in villages directly affected by quarrying. [321601]

Huw Irranca-Davies: It is for local authorities to decide how to spend money provided via ALSF as a non ring fenced area based grant. These monies are spent according to local priorities.

Nottinghamshire county council uses all money allocated to it on aggregates projects and reports through the DEFRA ALSF database, which can be viewed at:

http://alsf.defra.gov.uk/

The database currently records 73 projects funded by Nottinghamshire county council with a total value of nearly £2 million, of which £495,000 is from ALSF grants.

DEFRA is currently undertaking an assessment of the effectiveness of the ALSF, including funds provided to local authorities, in advance of the next spending review.

Compost: Mushrooms

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has had with Bassetlaw council on the prosecution of mushroom composters in breach of regulations on odour emissions. [321602]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Our officials continue to receive regular updates from Bassetlaw council about the regulation of the mushroom composting plant in their district, most recently from council officers on 3 March. DEFRA officials spoke to the newly-employed consultant to the council on 9 March. The decision on whether or not to prosecute is a matter for the council, having regard to, among other matters, the statutory Regulators' Compliance Code.

Noah's Ark Farm Zoo

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to ensure the compliance of Noah's Ark Farm Zoo, North Somerset, with section 7.13 of the Standards of Modern Zoo Practice as a condition of its zoo licence. [321598]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 places responsibility for the inspection and licensing of zoos with local authorities, in this case North Somerset council. The Act provides local authorities with all the powers they require to ensure that zoos operate to high standards consistent with the Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* disciplinary and *(b)* capability procedures have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed in his Department and its predecessor in each of the last five years; how much time on average was taken to complete each type of procedure in each such year; how many and what proportion of his Department's staff were subject to each type of procedure in each such year; and how many and what proportion of each type of procedure resulted in the dismissal of the member of staff. [320638]

Mr. McFadden: We are unable to provide the information requested on procedures initiated or average length of time that procedures take as responsibility for commencing capability and minor disciplinary procedures rests with line management across the Department. No records are collated centrally regarding how many procedures are initiated in the Department.

Staff may be dismissed for poor performance, poor attendance, gross misconduct or repeated misconduct. Information for the Department, including any predecessor Departments and data for UK Trade and Investment, in relation to dismissals on these grounds are set out in the following table. Totals of five or less are suppressed on the grounds of confidentiality.

	Number of staff dismissed (all reasons)
2009-10[1]	[2]—
2008	8
2007	14
2006	12
2005	15

[1] To date.

[2] Unable to supply this information under section 40 (personal data) of the Data Protection Act.

Departmental Paper

Martin Horwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* brands of (i) paper and (ii) paper products his Department uses; and what his Department's policy is on the procurement of those materials. [320036]

Mr. McFadden: The Department uses the Pan-Government Office Supplies Framework set up by the MOD. Under the framework Office Depot are the paper suppliers. Our reprographics department also use The Paper Company (formally Dixon and Roe) for their supplies.

Our hand towels, toilet rolls and kitchen paper are purchased through our cleaning company—GBM who in turn purchase from either Bunzi Cleaning and Hygiene Supplies or Futures Supplies and Support Services Ltd.

For the paper we use some unbranded products and some branded products as follows:

> Reprographics Department uses Evolve Office Paper and Nine Lives Paper.
>
> Office Depot provides Evolve, Unbranded; Filemaster; Paradis; Kendall; Kestrel; Communiques; Conqueror; Copyspeed, Classic and Rellex.

Our cleaning consumables are Kimberley Clark.

Insolvency: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses employing fewer than 50 people went into administration in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency in (i) each of the last 12 months and (ii) each of the last five years. [321446]

Ian Lucas: Official statistics for corporate insolvencies, including administrations, are not currently available at a sub-national level within England and Wales.

Additionally, the number of employees of a company in administration is not recorded on the Companies House source data.

Met Office

John Thurso: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to page 27 of the document Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government, what underlying data for weather forecasts will be released for free download and reuse by April 2010. [321358]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have been asked to reply.

The underlying data that have been made available are detailed in the following table. These data can be downloaded for free from the Met Office website at the following link:

http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/pws/invent/weathermap/

As outlined in 'Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government', the Met Office has also released a free iPhone application to access weather data and a widget that enables other websites to deploy Met Office supplied weather information.

Category	*Data details*
Weather warnings	Type, validity period, risk and severity for all current valid warnings issued by the Met Office
Weather	For all UK weather stations for which an observation or a forecast is available
	Site name
	Latitude
	Longitude

Category	*Data details*
	Wind direction
	Wind speed
	Wind gust
	Weather type (as numerical code, decode provided on website)
	Visibility
	Temperature
	Pressure—observed values only
	Pressure tendency (e.g. "Rising")—observed values only
Mountain and leisure areas	For Mountain areas:
	For the current day (day zero): weather hazards including severity, fell top conditions, weather forecast including precipitation probabilities
	For the next day (day one): weather forecast
	For days two and three: weather outlook For Leisure areas: a textual overview of the current day's weather
Pressure	Forecast Pressure for the entire UK area at various time frames
Ultra Violet	Forecast UV values for the current day through to day four for every forecast location in the UK

Post Offices: Bank Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many sub-postmasters have had back-payments collected from them by Post Office Ltd. in relation to ATMs installed in their branches; and from how many Post Office Ltd. continues seek to collect such back-payments; [321089]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with Post Office Ltd. on the collection of back-payments from sub-postmasters for ATMs in their branches; and if he will make a statement. [321090]

Mr. McFadden: Following agreement with the National Federation of Sub-postmasters, Post Office Ltd. notified sub-postmasters in September 2009 that they would not be asked to pay any backdated fees from the time their ATM was installed up to the end of August 2009.

Royal Mail

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to announce the appointment of a new chief executive for Royal Mail Group; and if he will make a statement. [320978]

Mr. McFadden: The chief executive post is not a Government appointment. The Royal Mail Board has begun the search for Adam Crozier's replacement but there is no set timetable for the recruitment process. An announcement will be made when the process is concluded.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many *(a)* disciplinary and *(b)* capability procedures have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed in the Government Equalities Office in each of the last five years; how much time on average was taken to complete each type of procedure in each such year; how many and what proportion of staff of the Government Equalities Office were subject to each type of procedure in each such year; and how many and what proportion of each type of procedure resulted in the dismissal of the member of staff. [320640]

Michael Jabez Foster: Since its creation in 2007, the Government Equalities Office has had one disciplinary case, in 2009. The case involved one member of staff and did not result in dismissal. It was initiated and completed within the 2009 calendar year.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information technology projects initiated by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agency were cancelled prior to completion in the last 12 months; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [320437]

Angela E. Smith: My Department has not cancelled any information technology projects in the last 12 months.

Employment

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people have moved from being *(a)* unemployed and *(b)* economically inactive to employed in each quarter in each (i) region and (ii) country of the UK since 2007; and what proportion of the labour force this represented in each (A) quarter and (B) such area. [321064]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people have moved from being (a) unemployed and (b) economically inactive to employed in each quarter in each (i) region and (ii) country of the UK since 2007, and what proportion of the labour force this represented in each (A) quarter and (B) such area. (321064)

Estimates for the working age population of the UK are provided in the attached table. They are derived from datasets extracted from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) which enable the estimation of the labour market status of people surveyed in two successive quarters. These datasets are made publicly available as the "LFS Longitudinal Datasets". Estimates for the regions and countries within the UK, and for all people aged 16 and over, are not available due to sample size restrictions and the limitations of the estimation methodology.

As with any estimates extracted from sample surveys, the figures provided are subject to a margin of uncertainty. More precise estimates of the quality of the estimates provided in this answer are not available.

Estimated quarterly flows[1] from unemployment and from economic inactivity into employment, working age people[2], United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

		Flows (Thousand)		Flows as a percentage of total economically active	
		Unemployment to employment	Economic inactivity to employment	Unemployment to employment	Economic inactivity to employment
2007	Q1	376	406	1.3	1.4
	Q2	443	478	1.5	1.6
	Q3	454	655	1.5	2.2
	Q4	567	528	1.9	1.8
2008	Q1	395	453	1.3	1.5
	Q2	421	444	1.4	1.5
	Q3	409	600	1.4	2.0
	Q4	549	503	1.8	1.7
2009	Q1	370	350	1.2	1.2
	Q2	490	330	1.5	1.1
	Q3	555	518	1.8	1.7
	Q4	582	405	1.9	1.4

[1] From the previous calendar quarter to the quarter shown.

[2] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.

Source:

ONS Labour Force Survey Longitudinal Datasets

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Birmingham City Council: Finance

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with Birmingham city council on its financial situation. [321363]

Barbara Follett: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no recent discussions with Birmingham city council regarding its financial situation.

Community Development: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 247W, on community development: finance, if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* data and *(b)* plans used to determine the allocation of funding from the Connecting Communities Fund to each local authority. [319106]

Barbara Follett: The neighbourhoods which benefited from Connecting Communities funding were identified after a range of hard and soft data around cohesion, deprivation and crime, perceived unfairness in the allocation of resources had been carefully examined. Feedback was also given by people working locally. The plans for each area were decided after discussions between local authorities and their Government office about the support required. The data and the plans are specific to each local authority and may include sensitive information. The hon. Member may wish to contact Peterborough city council about the selection of areas and the activities taking place in his constituency.

Departmental Location

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on the relocation of staff from posts in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years. [321434]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government has not relocated any posts from either Essex or the Castle Point constituency.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent staff of each grade are employed by his Department to assist special advisers. [321131]

Barbara Follett: Two full-time and one 0.4 full-time equivalent civil servants support the special advisers in the offices of the Secretary of State and the Minister for Housing. All three civil servants provide support of a non-political nature, in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers. They also provide support to Ministers' private offices.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid in reimbursable expenses to special advisers in his Department in each of the last five years. [320476]

Barbara Follett: For information up to 2007-08, I refer the hon. Member to the answer he was given on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 765W.

Since 2007-08, the information is as follows:

	£
2008-09	4,407.35
2009-10	1,327.90

Procedures for reimbursing staff expenses are set out in the Department's staff handbook, and are in line with the provisions set out in the Civil Service Management Code.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders: Squatting

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been produced by his Department on whether an Empty Dwelling Management Order may be issued in respect of a property which is occupied by squatters. [319296]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department issued a Guidance Note on Empty Dwelling Management Orders in July 2006 which can be downloaded from the Communities website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/guidancenote

An interim Empty Dwelling Management Order can be issued only by the Residential Property Tribunal Service if the dwelling has been wholly unoccupied (i.e. no part is occupied whether lawfully or unlawfully) for at least six months.

The issue of squatters is managed through separate provisions—other powers exist to evict squatters. The landlord must obtain an eviction order from a county court. The EDMO provisions can then be followed if required.

Fire Services: Finance

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on the fire and rescue service per 100,000 population in each local authority area in the last 12 months. [321597]

Barbara Follett: The latest available outturn net current expenditure on the fire and rescue services per 100,000 of the population in each local authority in England is for 2008-09 and is tabled as follows:

	£000 per 100,000 population
Greater London Authority	5,388
Greater Manchester Fire and CD Authority	3,887
Merseyside Fire and CD Authority	5,013
South Yorkshire Fire and CD Authority	4,168
Tyne and Wear Fire and CD Authority	4,648
West Midlands Fire and CD Authority	4,393
West Yorkshire Fire and CD Authority	3,184
Avon Combined Fire Authority	3,862
Bedfordshire Combined Fire Authority	3,651
Berkshire Combined Fire Authority	3,758
Buckinghamshire Combined Fire Authority	3,505
Cambridgeshire Combined Fire Authority	2,714
Cheshire Combined Fire Authority	3,927
Cleveland Combined Fire Authority	5,006
Derbyshire Combined Fire Authority	3,129
Devon and Somerset Combined Fire Authority	4,048
Dorset Combined Fire Authority	3,375
Durham Combined Fire Authority	4,417
East Sussex Combined Fire Authority	4,714
Essex Combined Fire Authority	4,032
Hampshire Combined Fire Authority	3,449
Hereford and Worcester Combined Fire Authority	3,691
Humberside Combined Fire Authority	5,085
Kent Combined Fire Authority	4,071
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	3,966
Leicestershire Combined Fire Authority	3,245
North Yorkshire Combined Fire Authority	3,598
Nottinghamshire Combined Fire Authority	3,853
Shropshire Combined Fire Authority	4,145
Staffordshire Combined Fire Authority	2,813
Wiltshire Combined Fire Authority	3,618
County councils	
Cornwall	3,842
Cumbria	3,865

	£000 per 100,000 population
Gloucestershire	3,184
Hertfordshire	3,600
Lincolnshire	3,835
Norfolk	3,499
Northamptonshire	3,428
Northumberland	5,033
Oxfordshire	3,547
Somerset[1]	39
Suffolk	3,279
Surrey	3,778
Warwickshire	3,955
West Sussex	4,047
Isles of Scilly	15,547
Unitary authority	
Isle of Wight UA	4,227

[1] Fire and rescue responsibility was transferred from Somerset county council to Devon and Somerset Combined Fire Authority on 1 April 2007. However, Somerset county council still has some residual costs.

Source:

Communities and Local Government provisional Revenue Outturn (RO) returns.

Population figures used in the calculation are the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) Mid-Year Population estimates for 2008.

The current expenditure defined here is on a Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 17 basis and is the cost of running local authority services within the financial year. This includes the costs of staffing, heating, lighting and cleaning, together with expenditure on goods and services consumed within the year. This expenditure is offset by income from sales, fees and charges and other (non-grant) income, to give net current expenditure.

Greater Manchester

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Manchester, Gorton constituency, the effects on that constituency of the policies of his Department and its predecessors since 1997. [322141]

Barbara Follett: My Department does not routinely collect information at constituency level but, as the constituency of Manchester, Gorton falls within the local authority of Manchester we have, where relevant, included information from them in this answer.

The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 Census and other sources.

This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/

Communities and Local Government statistical publications can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/researchandstatistics/statistics/

This includes time series data across the Department's remit at various geographic levels.

Details of research projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and its predecessors are available from our Research Database (RD) at:

http://www.rmd.communities.gov.uk/

This includes evaluations of key policies.

Over the last year, Communities and Local Government has:

Played a critical role responding to the recession ensuring people, business and communities receive the practical help they need, including: helping people avoid repossession; Real Help Now; supporting the construction industry, critical regeneration projects, jobs through Future Jobs Fund; and businesses with the business rates deferral scheme.

Set in place a platform for greater local devolution for more effective decision making through local area agreements (LAAs)—including slashing central performance standards from over 1,200 to fewer than 200.

Continued building on this through Total Place pilots, leading innovation across public services—cutting out waste, overlap and duplication, meaning more and better quality services at less cost to the taxpayer.

Established the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) set out in the Planning Act 2008—which will make the major Infrastructure Planning decisions for) the country, delivering a faster, fairer and more transparent planning regime.

Announced the £1.5 billion Housing Pledge to deliver an additional 20,000 units of affordable housing, creating 45,000 jobs in the construction industry over this year and next, including 1,300 new apprenticeship schemes.

Last year there were 330 additional affordable homes provided by Manchester local authority. See link for further information:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1406085.xls

During the period since 1997, the Department's achievements include:

Working with local housing authorities to reduce the number of people accepted as owed a main homelessness duty by 71 per cent. since the peak in 2003—the lowest level since the late seventies—through greater emphasis on the prevention of homelessness.

In 2008-09, there were 539 households accepted as being homeless and in priority need in Manchester local authority compared to 2,688 households accepted as being homeless and in priority need in 2002-03. See link for further information:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141476.xls

Launching the Local Government White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities" which set out a new stage of public sector reform, significantly strengthening leadership and devolving power to local government as well as providing a major expansion of opportunities for local people to influence local decision-making and improve their lives.

Helping reduce accidental fire-related deaths—the lowest level since 1959.

In 2008-09, there were 12 accidental fire related deaths in Greater Manchester, compared to 28 accidental fire relate deaths in 2001-02. At the local level, fire deaths may fluctuate within a general declining national trend. See link for further information (Table 4b):

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1403049.xls

Reducing by 1.2 million the number of non decent social homes

As at 1 April 2009, there were 7,201 non-decent dwellings in Manchester local authority, compared to 40,586 non decent dwellings at 1 April 2001. See links for further information:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1393612.xls

(2008-09 data)

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141950.xls

(2001-02 data)

Investing through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund £1.87 billion for England's 88 most deprived local authorities, leading to real positive change.

Hackney

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Hackney, North and Stoke Newington constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997. [318372]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not routinely collect information at constituency level as far back as to 1997. The constituency of Hackney, North and Stoke Newington constituency falls within the London borough of Hackney and therefore where relevant information is available, this has been included in the answer.

The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 Census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/

Communities and Local Government statistical publications can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/researchandstatistics/statistics/

This includes time series data across the Department's remit at various geographic levels.

Details of research projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and its predecessors are available from our Research Database (RD) at:

http://www.rmd.communities.gov.uk/

This includes evaluations of key policies.

Over the last year, Communities and Local Government has:

Played a critical role responding to the recession ensuring people, business and communities receive the practical help they need, including: helping people avoid repossession; Real Help Now; supporting the construction industry, critical regeneration projects, jobs through Future Jobs Fund; and businesses with the business rates deferral scheme.

Set in place a platform for greater local devolution for more effective decision-making through Local Area Agreements (LAAs), including slashing central performance standards from over 1,200 to fewer than 200.

Continued building on this through Total Place pilots, leading innovation across public services, cutting out waste, overlap and duplication, meaning more and better quality services at less cost to the taxpayer.

Established the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) set out in the Planning Act 2008, which will make the major infrastructure planning decisions for the country, delivering a faster, fairer and more transparent planning regime.

Announced the £1.5 billion Housing Pledge to deliver an additional 20,000 units of affordable housing, creating 45,000 jobs in the construction industry over this year and next, including 1,300 new apprenticeship schemes.

Last year there were 990 additional affordable homes provided by the London borough of Hackney, compared to 709 additional affordable homes provided in 1996-97. See link for further information:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1406085.xls

During the period since 1997, the Department's achievements include:

Working with local housing authorities to reduce the number of people accepted as owed a main homelessness duty by 71 per cent. since the peak in 2003—the lowest level since the late seventies—through greater emphasis on the prevention of homelessness.

In 2008-09, there were 615 households accepted as being homeless and in priority need in the London borough of Hackney compared to 1,136 households accepted as being homeless and in priority need in 2002-03. See link for further information:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141476.xls

Launching the Local Government White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities" which set out a new stage of public sector reform, significantly strengthening leadership and devolving power to local government as well as providing a major expansion of opportunities for local people to influence local decision-making and improve their lives.

Helping reduce accidental fire-related deaths—the lowest level since 1959.

In 2008-09, there were 30 accidental fire related deaths in Greater London, compared to 56 accidental fire related deaths in 2001-02. See link for further information (Table 4b):

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1403049.xls

Reducing by 1.2 million the number of non-decent social homes.

As at 1 April 2009, there were 7,326 non-decent dwellings in the London borough of Hackney, compared to 26,649 non-decent dwellings as at 1 April 2001. See links for further information:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1393612.xls

(2008009 data)

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/142466.xls

(2001-02 data)

Investing through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund £1.87 billion for England's 88 most deprived local authorities, leading to real positive change.

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many port businesses have paid the assessments for business rates for 2009-10; how many such businesses have paid a first contribution into his Department's scheme to allow the payment of such retrospective charges over eight years; and what estimate he has made of the number of businesses eligible for assistance under this scheme. [321417]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not hold information on the extent to which individual businesses have met their business rates liabilities for 2009-10.

Local authorities reported that, as at 8 October 2009, ratepayers occupying 221 properties within ports had fully discharged their backdated liability and ratepayers occupying a further 200 business properties within ports had been granted a schedule of payments.

In a Business Rates Information letter dated 10 February 2009, the Government said that, based on historical trends, they estimate that up to 1,500 properties could benefit from a schedule of payments in 2009-10.

The Government have listened to the concerns of businesses with significant and unexpected backdated bills, including some of those within ports. It has legislated to enable such bills to be repaid over an unprecedented eight years rather than in one instalment thus helping affected businesses to manage the impact on their cash flows during the downturn by reducing the amount they are required to pay now by 87.5 per cent.

Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Stroud constituency, the effects on that constituency of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessor since 2000. [321478]

Barbara Follett: My Department does not routinely collect information at constituency level but, as the constituency of Stroud falls within the local authority of Stroud we have, where relevant, included information from them in this answer.

The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 Census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/

Communities and Local Government statistical publications can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/researchandstatistics/statistics/

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Details of research projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and its predecessors are available from our Research Database (RD) at:

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This includes evaluations of key policies.

Over the last year, Communities and Local Government has:

Played a critical role responding to the recession ensuring people, business and communities receive the practical help they need, including: helping people avoid repossession: Real Help Now; supporting the construction industry, critical regeneration projects, jobs through Future Jobs Fund; and businesses with the business rates deferral scheme.

Set in place a platform for greater local devolution for more effective decision making through local area agreements (LAAs), including slashing central performance standards from over 1,200 to fewer than 200.

Continued building on this through Total Place pilots, leading innovation across public services, cutting out waste, overlap and duplication, meaning more and better quality services at less cost to the taxpayer.

Established the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) set out in the Planning Act 2008, which will make the major Infrastructure Planning decisions for the country, delivering a faster, fairer and more transparent planning regime.

Announced the £1.5 billion Housing Pledge to deliver an additional 20,000 units of affordable housing, creating 45,000 jobs in the construction industry over this year and next, including 1,300 new apprenticeship schemes.

Last year there were 70 additional affordable homes provided by Stroud local authority compared to 50 additional affordable homes provided in 2000-01. See link for further information:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1406085.xls

During the period since 1997, the Department's achievements include:

Working with local housing authorities to reduce the number of people accepted as owed a main homelessness duty by 71 per cent. since the peak in 2003—the lowest level since the late seventies—through greater emphasis on the prevention of homelessness.

In 2008-09, there were 22 households accepted as being homeless and in priority need in Stroud local authority compared to 89 households accepted as being homeless and in priority need in 2002-03. See link for further information:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141476.xls

Launching the Local Government White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities" which set out a new stage of public sector reform, significantly strengthening leadership and devolving power to local government as well as providing a major expansion of opportunities for local people to influence local decision-making and improve their lives.

Helping reduce accidental fire-related deaths—the lowest level since 1959.

In 2007-08, there were five accidental fire related deaths in Gloucestershire, compared to two accidental fire relate deaths in 2001-02. At the local level, fire deaths may fluctuate within a general declining national trend. See link for further information (Table 4b):

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1403049.xls

Reducing by 1.2 million the number of non decent social homes

As at 1 April 2009, there were 625 non-decent dwellings in Stroud local authority, compared to 1,895 non decent dwellings at 1 April 2001. See links for further information:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1393612.xls

(2008-09 data)

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/142016.xls

(2001-02 data)

Investing through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund £1.87 billion for England's 88 most deprived local authorities, leading to real positive change.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make an assessment of the merits of making the provision of assistance to the Congolese army conditional on progress towards the release from its ranks of those under the age of 18 years and the removal of individuals suspected of having committed human rights abuses. [321661]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UN Peacekeeping mission, MONUC, has a conditionality clause in its mandate that support will be withdrawn from Congolese army units (FARDC) which commit human rights abuses.

We fully support this approach and will continue to maintain pressure on the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to take appropriate action against perpetrators of human rights abuses and uphold the rule of law. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa visited DRC last month and raised the issue with President Kabila, urging progress on security sector reform and implementation of his "zero tolerance" policy on human rights abuses. The Minister also met with FARDC officers and UN Peacekeeping troop commanders in South Kivu, in eastern Congo, and was encouraged by their considered approach to the newly mandated operation, Amani Leo, where they have created a method for vetting FARDC commanders before collaborating with them, shifted emphasis to predominantly civilian protection and developed a robust message on zero tolerance and the need to maintain professional standards. We will continue to monitor the mission through our staff on the ground as well as UN, non-governmental organisations and independent reporting.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of providing assistance for accountability mechanisms in Democratic Republic of Congo in respect of reported human rights abuses, with particular reference to the participation of children in armed conflict. [321662]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Accountability is essential for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) armed forces to be able to provide civilian protection. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa raised the issue of impunity for human rights abusers with Prime Minister Muzito and President Kabila when in the country last month. We have lent support to developing the justice sector in DRC. We are providing about £80 million over five years to increase accountability of the security sector through strengthened oversight mechanisms, technical assistance and training.

Through the EU advisory and assistance mission for security reform in the DRC we are funding a biometric census project which provides accurate personnel figures for the military of the DRC regiments and allows child soldiers to be successfully identified and removed.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make an assessment of the merits of extending the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 1698 (2006) to include all political and military leaders responsible for the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict in Democratic Republic of Congo. [321663]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: UN Security Council Resolution 1698 states that political and military leaders recruiting or using children in armed conflict in violation of applicable international law, and individuals committing serious violations of international law involving the targeting of children in situations of armed conflict, including killing and maiming, sexual violence, abduction and forced displacement be subject to sanctions. We fully support this measure as stated in the declaration.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Political Prisoners

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo on the arrest in January 2010 of Lutu Mabangu. [321392]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 9 March 2010]:* My noble Friend Baroness Kinnock raised freedom of expression and the need for media freedom and freedom of association in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with the President, Prime Minister and other Ministers when she visited in late February. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials will raise the specific case of Lutu Mabangu at the meeting of the EU human rights working group in Kinshasa next month. We are currently not making any specific representations to the Government of DRC about this case.

Departmental Location

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on the relocation of staff from posts in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years. [321429]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No such expenditure has been incurred.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many full-time equivalent staff of each grade are employed by his Department to assist special advisers. [321136]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since June 2009 there have been two full-time Civil Servants: one Band A member of staff (AO equivalent) and one Band B member (EO equivalent) employed to assist Special Advisers. These Civil Servants have provided administrative support of a non-political nature in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to seek to ensure safe passage of the Free Gaza flotilla through international waters. [321677]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Vessels in international waters enjoy the right of freedom of navigation. However, the Government strongly advise against any travel to Gaza at this time. Humanitarian aid workers and other essential specialist staff needing to travel to Gaza should co-ordinate their entry to Gaza with the major international humanitarian organisations already on the ground. The Government also regularly lobby the Israeli Government to increase the flow of humanitarian aid into Gaza.

If, despite this advice, Free Gaza decide to travel to Gaza, they do so at their own risk. They should review their security arrangements and seek professional security advice on whether they are adequate. They should register with our consular office in Gaza. The level of consular assistance the FCO can provide is extremely limited.

Terrorism: Northern Ireland

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress his Department has made in its policy of supporting the provision of compensation by the Libyan government for victims of terrorism in Northern Ireland. [321769]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Libya/Northern Ireland Reconciliation Unit continues to support the campaign by victims and families of victims of Irish Republican Army terrorism to obtain a settlement from the Libyan Government. This dedicated unit continues to provide facilitation, logistical support and advice to the campaign.

Trade Unions

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many days staff of his Department and its agencies spent on trade union activity in the latest year for which figures are available; and what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of such activity. [320613]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with his counterparts in North Africa on the effects of the Western Sahara dispute on the effectiveness of the Maghreb Arab Union. [321617]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have not discussed the effect of the Western Sahara dispute on the Maghreb Arab Union with all governments in North Africa. This issue has, however, been discussed with the Moroccan authorities. The UK recognises the negative impact of the long-running dispute over the territory of Western Sahara on a range of regional co-operation initiatives, including the Arab Maghreb Union.

The UK regards the status of the disputed non-self-governing territory of Western Sahara as undetermined, pending UN efforts to find a solution that provides for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. To this end, we continue to support the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy, Christopher Ross, in their efforts to resolve the dispute.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what projects his Department is operating to encourage the responsible consumption of alcohol; and how much is being spent on each. [321156]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Partnership Support Programme, run by the Alcohol Strategy Unit identified 50 CDRP areas where they expected to see action to tackle binge drinking and related antisocial behaviour. These areas are being encouraged to engage with their communities about the damaging effects of irresponsible drinking and the action they are taking to address problem areas. A total of £1.5 million has been distributed between the 50 CDRPs for this purpose.

12 selected CDRPs on the partnership support programme have received specialist strategic consultancy to develop sustainable communications plans to engage local communities and tackle people's perceptions of the issues. The consultancy included research dissemination and feedback, the facilitation of communications workshops and the development of communications strategies. This is supported by ongoing liaison with regional Know Your Limits stakeholders, providing them with promotional materials to run their campaigns about irresponsible drinking and keeping them informed of Home Office activity and news.

We provide support to CDRPs and other stakeholders who have questions and requests about the Know Your Limits campaign. This includes information about materials available to them, using logos and amplifying campaigns locally, advice on the type of communication programme that they could run in their area, as well as general communication guidance and best practice.

The Know Your Limits advertising campaign targets 18 to 24-year-olds to prompt them to reconsider their behaviour around binge drinking. Throughout the summer adverts appeared on websites, radio, TV and in magazines. The cost of media for the financial year 2009-10, excluding production and fees, was £1,661,612.

Additionally, we have funded a number of adult and young people's alcohol arrest referral projects. These seek to offer a brief intervention to individuals who have been arrested for an offence, and are under the influence of alcohol. A total of £1.6 million has been spent on these arrest referral projects during the financial year 2009-10.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were (*a*) prosecuted, (*b*) convicted and (*c*) received the maximum available fine for the offence of not obeying an instruction to stop drinking in a designated public place in each of the last three years. [321158]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of defendants proceeding against at magistrates courts and convicted and fined at all courts in England and Wales, and issued with a penalty notice for disorder for not obeying an instruction to stop drinking in a designated public place in each year from 2006 to 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table. No defendants have received the maximum fine of £500 between 2006 and 2008.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned to be published in autumn 2010.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty, issued with a penalty notice for disorder and issued with a court fine at all courts for not obeying an instruction to stop drinking in a designated public place, England and Wales 2006-08[1, 2, 3]

Offence description	Number	2006	2007	2008
Failure to obey an instruction to stop alcohol consumption in designated public place (Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, sec. 12)	Proceeded against	101	113	[4]153
	Found guilty	73	98	[4]123
	Penalty notice for disorder	1,061	1,544	1,761
	Maximum fines issued	—	—	—
	Number of defendants fined	59	76	92

[1] The court proceedings figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitatons are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The offence of alcohol consumption in designated public place (section 12 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001) came into force on 1 September 2001.

[4] Excludes prosecutions and convictions data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provisions on the purchase, production, sale or misuse of alcohol introduced in legislation since 1 May 2007 have not yet been brought into force. [321161]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 8 March 2010]:* Legislative provisions that fall under the responsibility of the Home Office and have not yet been brought into force are as follows:

Policing and Crime Act 2009

The secondary legislation in relation to the mandatory licensing conditions for alcohol retailers. The Licensing Act 2003 (Mandatory Licensing Conditions) Order is currently before Parliament for approval.

Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006

Sections 6,7 and 8 in relation to Drinking Banning Orders on conviction willcome into force on 1 April 2010.

Alcoholic Drinks: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many penalty notices for disorder have been issued for the offence of consuming alcohol in a designated public place in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in fines for such notices in each of the last three years; [321034]

(2) how many penalty notices for disorder have been issued for the offence of being drunk in a highway in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in fines for such notices in each of the three years; [321035]

(3) how many penalty notices for disorder were issued for the offence of purchasing alcohol on behalf of a person under 18 in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in fines for such notices in each of those years; [321036]

(4) how many penalty notices for disorder were issued for the offence of buying or attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18 in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in fines for such notices in each of those years; [321037]

(5) how many penalty notices for disorder have been issued for the offence of selling alcohol to a person who is drunk in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in fines in each of those years.; [321073]

(6) how many penalty notices for disorder were issued for the offence of being drunk and disorderly in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in fines in each of those years; [321159]

(7) how many penalty notices for disorder were issued for the offence of selling alcohol to a person under 18 years old in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in fines in each of those years. [321160]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of penalty notice for disorder issued for selected offences 2006 to 2008 (latest) are given in the tables. Alcohol related offences have been italicised.

Offences requested as follows:

DB07—consuming alcohol in a designated public place

DB05—being drunk in a highway

DA19 and DA20—purchasing alcohol on behalf of a person under 18

DB14—buying or attempting to buy alcohol

DA16—selling alcohol to a person who is drunk

DA06—drunk and disorderly

DA18—selling alcohol to a person under 18 years old

Penalty notices for disorder data for 2009 are planned to be published in autumn 2010.

Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, by Offence and Outcome, England and Wales 2006[1]

					Of those paid			
	Offence description	Number issued	Total paid in full	%	Paid in full within 21 days	%	Paid in full outside 21 days	%
	£80 Tickets issued							
DA01	Wasting police time	*3,933*	*1,911*	49	1,355	34	556	14

Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, by Offence and Outcome, England and Wales 2006[1]

					Of those paid			
	Offence description	*Number issued*	*Total paid in full*	*%*	*Paid in full within 21 days*	*%*	*Paid in full outside 21 days*	*%*
DA02	Misuse of public telecommunications system	*909*	*523*	58	388	43	135	15
DA03	Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	*106*	*43*	41	35	33	8	8
DA04	Causing Harassment, alarm or distress[2]	*82,235*	*43,120*	52	30,757	37	12,363	15
DA05	Throwing fireworks	*682*	*380*	56	267	39	113	17
DA06	Drunk and disorderly	*43,556*	*24,673*	57	18,123	42	6,550	15
DA11	Criminal Damage (under £500)[2]	*20,620*	*11,351*	55	8,342	40	3,009	15
DA12	Theft (retail under £200)[2]	*38,772*	*16,169*	42	12,370	32	3,799	10
DA13	Breach of fireworks curfew	*53*	*34*	64	27	51	7	13
DA14	Possession of category 4 firework	*28*	*12*	43	9	32	3	11
DA15	Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	*76*	*51*	67	34	45	17	22
DA16	Sale of alcohol to drunken person	*47*	*35*	74	29	62	6	13
DA17	Supply of alcohol to person under 18	*60*	*53*	88	41	68	12	20
DA18	Sale of alcohol to person under 18	*3,195*	*2,756*	86	2,354	74	402	13
DA19	Purchas[illegible]ohol for person under 18	*407*	*268*	66	213	52	55	14
DA20	Purchase alcohol for person under 18 for consumption on premises	*60*	*39*	65	35	58	4	7
DA21	Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	*297*	*176*	59	132	44	44	15
	£50 Tickets issued							
DB03	Trespass on a railway	*1,042*	*551*	53	320	31	231	22
DB04	Throwing stones at a train/railway	*15*	*6*	40	5	33	1	7
DB05	Drunk in a highway	*2,712*	*1,433*	53	1,064	39	369	14
DB07	Consumption of alcohol in public place	*1,061*	*252*	24	165	16	87	8
DB08	Depositing and leaving litter	*1,169*	*593*	51	427	37	166	14
DB12	Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	*75*	*55*	73	46	61	9	12
DB13	Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	*14*	*10*	71	10	71	—	—
DB14	Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18	*73*	*52*	71	43	59	9	12
	All offences	*201,197*	*104,546*	*52*	*76,591*	*38*	*27,955*	*14*

						Other outcomes							
	Offence description	*Number issued*	*Total paid in full*	*Fine registered*	*%*	*Court hearing requested*	*%*	*PND cancelled*	*%*	*Potential prosecution*	*%*	*Outcome unknown*	*%*
	£80 Tickets issued												
DA01	Wasting police time	*3,933*	*1,911*	1,787	45	44	1	108	3	81	2	2	0
DA02	Misuse of public telecommunications system	*909*	*523*	319	35	14	2	26	3	24	3	3	0
DA03	Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	*106*	*43*	52	49	—	—	6	6	5	5	—	—

						Other outcomes							
	Offence description	*Number issued*	*Total paid in full*	*Fine registered*	*%*	*Court hearing requested*	*%*	*PND cancelled*	*%*	*Potential prosecution*	*%*	*Outcome unknown*	*%*
DA04	Causing Harassment, alarm or distress[2]	*82,235*	*43,120*	35,154	43	780	1	1,914	2	1,126	1	141	0
DA05	Throwing fireworks	*682*	*380*	264	39	5	1	23	3	10	1	—	—
DA06	Drunk and disorderly	*43,556*	*24,673*	16,919	39	269	1	886	2	725	2	84	0
DA11	Criminal Damage (under £500)[2]	*20,620*	*11,351*	[illegible],492	41	134	1	324	2	287	1	32	0
DA12	Theft (retail under £200)[2]	*38,772*	*16,169*	21,157	55	203	1	732	2	392	1	119	0
DA13	Breach of fireworks curfew	*53*	*34*	16	30	1	2	1	2	—	—	1	2
DA14	Possession of category 4 firework	*28*	*12*	15	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
DA15	Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	*76*	*51*	21	28	—	—	3	4	1	1	—	—
DA16	Sale of alcohol to drunken person	*47*	*35*	9	19	1	2	2	4	—	—	—	—
DA17	Supply of alcohol to person under 18	*60*	*53*	7	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
DA18	Sale of alcohol to person under 18	*3,195*	*2,756*	390	12	6	0	30	1	10	0	3	0
DA19	Purchase alcohol for person under 18	*407*	*268*	122	30	1	0	10		6	1	—	—
DA20	Purchase alcohol for person under 18 for consumption on premises	*60*	*39*	20	33	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
DA21	Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	*297*	*176*	99	33	3	1	14	5	3	1	2	1
	£50 Tickets issued												
DB03	Trespass on a railway	*1,042*	*551*	465	44	2	0	19	2	6	1	1	0
DB04	Throwing stones at a train/railway	*15*	*6*	6	40	—	—	2	13	—	—	1	7
DB05	Drunk in a highway	*2,712*	*1,433*	1,158	43	7	0	94	3	16	1	4	0
DB07	Consumption of alcohol in public place	*1,061*	*252*	749	71	7	1	45	4	6	1	2	0
DB08	Depositing and leaving litter	*1,169*	*593*	536	46	3	0	26	2	10	1	1	0
DB12	Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	*75*	*55*	17	23	—	—	2	3	1	1	—	—
DB13	Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	*14*	*10*	4	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

								Other outcomes					
	Offence description	*Number issued*	*Total paid in full*	*Fine registered*	*%*	*Court hearing requested*	*%*	*PND cancelled*	*%*	*Potential prosecution*	*%*	*Outcome unknown*	*%*
DB14	Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18	73	52	20	27	—	—	1	1	—			
	All offences	*201,197*	*104,546*	*87,796*	*44*	*1,480*	*1*	*4,268*	*2*	*2,710*	*1*	*397*	*0*

Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, by Offence and Outcome[2] England and Wales 2007[1]

						Of those paid		
	Offence description	*Number issued*	*Total paid in full*	*%*	*Paid in full within 21 days*	*%*	*Paid in full outside 21 days*	*%*
	£80 Tickets issued							
DA01	Wasting police time	3,966	1,862	47	1,384	35	478	12
DA02	Misuse of public telecommunications system	1,193	670	56	526	44	144	12
DA03	Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	96	55	57	38	40	17	18
DA04	Causing Harassment, alarm or distress[2]	77,827	40,357	52	30,761	40	9,596	12
DA05	Throwing fireworks	649	374	58	290	45	84	13
DA06	Drunk and disorderly	46,996	26,367	56	19,727	42	6,640	14
DA11	Criminal Damage (under £500)[2]	19,946	11,072	56	8,401	42	2,671	13
DA12	Theft (retail under £200)[2]	45,146	19,111	42	15,390	34	3,721	8
DA13	Breach of fireworks curfew	39	25	64	20	51	5	13
DA14	Possession of category 4 firework	22	10	45	7	32	3	14
DA15	Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	106	67	63	57	54	10	9
DA16	Sale of alcohol to drunken person	81	64	79	50	62	14	17
DA17	Supply of alcohol to person under 18	54	41	76	31	57	10	19
DA18	Sale of alcohol to person under 18	3,583	3,074	86	2,623	73	451	13
DA19	Purchase alcohol for person under 18	555	320	58	244	44	76	14
DA20	Purchase alcohol for person under 18 for consumption on premises	64	31	48	23	36	8	13
DA21	Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	431	268	62	219	51	49	11
	£50 Tickets issued							
DB03	Trespass on a railway	1,527	780	51	441	29	339	22
DB04	Throwing stones at a train/railway	25	13	52	11	44	2	8
DB05	Drunk in a highway	2,066	1,146	55	942	46	204	10
DB07	Consumption of alcohol in public place	1,544	328	21	259	17	69	4
DB08	Depositing and leaving litter	1,374	705	51	541	39	[illegible]	12
DB12	Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	85	67	79	55	65	12	14
DB13	Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	11	9	82	8	73	1	9
DB14	Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18	158	109	69	85	54	24	15
	All offences	*207,544*	*106,925*	*52*	*82,133*	*40*	*24,792*	*12*

						Other outcomes							
	Offence description	*Number issued*	*Total paid in full*	*Fine registered*	*%*	*Court hearing requested*	*%*	*PND cancelled*	*%*	*Potential prosecution*	*%*	*Outcome unknown*	*%*
	£80 Tickets issued												
DA01	Wasting police time	*3,966*	*1,862*	1,807	46	34	1	122	3	140	4	1	0
DA02	Misuse of public telecommunications system	*1,193*	*670*	431	36	17	1	43	4	32	3	—	—
DA03	Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	*96*	*55*	37	39	—	—	3	3	1	1	—	—
DA04	Causing Harassment, alarm or distress[2]	*77,827*	*40,357*	33,021	42	626	1	2,210	3	1,577	2	36	0
DA05	Throwing fireworks	*649*	*374*	223	34	9	1	30	5	13	2	—	—
DA06	Drunk and disorderly	*46,996*	*26,367*	18,161	39	244	1	1,038	2	1,177	3	9	0
DA11	Criminal Damage (under £500)[2]	*19,946*	*11,072*	7,979	40	112	1	384	2	393	2	6	0
DA12	Theft (retail under £200)[2]	*45,146*	*19,111*	24,344	54	172	0	988	2	507	1	24	0
DA13	Breach of fireworks curfew	*39*	*25*	13	33	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—
DA14	Possession of category 4 firework	*22*	*10*	10	45	—	—	2	9	—	—	—	—
DA15	Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	*106*	*67*	31	29	1	1	5	5	2	2	—	—
DA16	Sale of alcohol to drunken person	*81*	*64*	9	11	3	4	2	2	3	4	—	—
DA17	Supply of alcohol to person under 18	*54*	*41*	11	20	1	2	1	2	—	—	—	—
DA18	Sale of alcohol to person under 18	*3,583*	*3,074*	405	11	13	0	69	2	22	1	—	—
DA19	Purchase alcohol for person under 18	*555*	*320*	211	38	4	1	14	3	5	1	1	0
DA20	Purchase alcohol for person under 18 for consumption on premises	*64*	*31*	22	34	—	—	10	16	1	2	—	—
DA21	Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	*431*	*268*	138	32	1	0	19	4	5	1	—	—
	£50 Tickets issued												
DB03	Trespass on a railway	*1,527*	*780*	675	44	—	—	45	3	26	2	1	0
DB04	Throwing stones at a train/railway	*25*	*13*	10	40	—	—	2	8	—	—	—	—
DB05	Drunk in a highway	*2,066*	*1,146*	788	38	8	0	94	5	30	1	—	—
DB07	Consumption of alcohol in public place	*1,544*	*328*	1,090	71	6	0	87	6	32	2	1	0
DB08	Depositing and leaving litter	*1,374*	*705*	589	43	2	0	64	5	13	1	1	0

	Offence description	Number issued	Total paid in full	Fine registered	%	Other outcomes Court hearing requested	%	PND cancelled	%	Potential prosecution	%	Outcome unknown	%
DB12	Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	*85*	*67*	16	19	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
DB13	Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	*11*	9	1	9	—	—	1	9	—	—	—	—
DB14	Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18	*158*	*109*	35	22	—	—	13	8	1	1	—	—
	All offences	*207,544*	*106,925*	*90,057*	*43*	*1,253*	*1*	*5,249*	*3*	*3,980*	*2*	*80*	*0*

Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, by Offence and Outcome, England and Wales 2008[1]

	Offence description	Number issued	Total paid in full	%	Of these paid— Paid in full within 21 days	%	Paid in full outside 21 days	%
	£80 Tickets issued							
DA01	Wasting police time	*3,443*	*1,659*	48	1,302	38	357	10
DA02	Misuse of public telecommunications system	*888*	*532*	60	422	48	110	12
DA03	Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	*77*	*50*	65	35	45	15	19
DA04	Causing Harassment, alarm or distress[2]	*57,773*	*29,646*	51	23,172	40	6,474	11
DA05	Throwing fireworks	*531*	*296*	56	240	45	56	11
DA06	Drunk and disorderly	*44,411*	*24,775*	56	18,371	41	6,404	14
DA11	Criminal Damage (under £500)[2]	*13,427*	*7,624*	57	5,880	44	1,744	13
DA12	Theft (retail under £200)[2]	*45,616*	*20,903*	46	17,280	38	3,623	8
DA13	Breach of fireworks curfew	*23*	*21*	91	17	74	4	17
DA14	Possession of category 4 firework	*23*	*12*	52	10	43	2	9
DA15	Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	*67*	*42*	63	38	57	4	6
DA16	Sale of alcohol to drunken person	*66*	*51*	77	47	71	4	6
DA17	Supply of alcohol to person under 18	*83*	*70*	84	60	72	10	12
DA18	Sale of alcohol to person under 18	*2,824*	*2,473*	88	2,121	75	352	12
DA19	Purchase alcohol for person under 18	*524*	*291*	56	232	44	59	11
DA20	Purchase alcohol for person under 18 for consumption on premises	*50*	*34*	68	24	48	10	20
DA21	Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	*286*	*162*	57	134	47	28	10
	£50 Tickets issued							
DB03	Trespass on a railway	*1,468*	*797*	54	313	21	484	33
DB04	Throwing stones at a train/railway	*27*	*16*	59	7	26	9	33
DB05	*Drunk in a highway*	*1,438*	*773*	*54*	*657*	*46*	*116*	*8*
DB07	*Consumption of alcohol in public place*	*1,761*	*296*	*17*	*254*	*14*	*42*	*2*
DB08	Depositing and leaving litter	*1,202*	*660*	55	543	45	117	10
DB12	*Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises*	*36*	*23*	*64*	*19*	*53*	*4*	*11*
DB13	*Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises*	*6*	*4*	*67*	*4*	*67*		

Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, by Offence and Outcome, England and Wales 2008[1]

					Of those paid			
	Offence description	*Number issued*	*Total paid in full*	*%*	*Paid in full within 21 days*	*%*	*Paid in full outside 21 days*	*%*
DB14	*Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18*	114	79	69	62	54	17	15
	England and Wales	176,164	91,289	52	71,244	40	20,045	11

						Other outcomes							
	Offence description	*Number issued*	*Total paid in full*	*Fine registered*	*%*	*Court hearing requested*	*%*	*PND cancelled*	*%*	*Potential prosecution*	*%*	*Outcome unknown*	*%*
	£80 Tickets issued												
DA01	Wasting police time	3,443	1,659	1,519	44	35	1	115	3	113	3	2	0
DA02	Misuse of public telecommunications system	888	532	285	32	11	1	40	5	20	2	—	—
DA03	Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	77	50	25	32	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
DA04	Causing Harassment, alarm or distress[2]	57,773	29,646	24,623	43	419	1	1,688	3	1,387	2	10	0
DA05	Throwing fireworks	531	296	204	38	3	1	17	3	11	2	—	—
DA06	Drunk and disorderly	44,411	24,775	17,368	39	299	1	873	2	1,072	2	24	0
DA11	Criminal Damage (under £500)[2]	13,427	7,624	5,251	39	72	1	210	2	266	2	4	0
DA12	Theft (retail under £200)[2]	45,616	20,903	23,090	51	189	0	881	2	540	1	13	0
DA13	Breach of fireworks curfew	23	21	1	4	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
DA14	Possession of category 4 firework	23	12	11	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
DA15	Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	67	42	22	33	—	—	2	3	1	1	—	—
DA16	Sale of alcohol to drunken person	66	51	9	14	3	5	1	2	2	3	—	—
DA17	Supply of alcohol to person under 18	83	70	12	14	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
DA18	Sale of alcohol to person under 18	2,824	2,473	309	11	9	0	15	1	17	1	1	0
DA19	Purchase alcohol for person under 18	524	291	210	40	4	1	10	2	9	2	—	—
DA20	Purchase alcohol for person under 18 for consumption on premises	50	34	15	30	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
DA21	Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	286	162	116	41	—	—	8	3	—	—	—	—
	£50 Tickets issued												
DB03	Trespass on a railway	1,468	797	585	40	1	0	69	5	16	1	—	—
DB04	Throwing stones at a train/railway	27	16	10	37	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—
DB05	*Drunk in a highway*	1,438	773	586	41	4	0	55	4	20	1	—	—

						Other outcomes							
	Offence description	*Number issued*	*Total paid in full*	*Fine registered*	*%*	*Court hearing requested*	*%*	*PND cancelled*	*%*	*Potential prosecution*	*%*	*Outcome unknown*	*%*
DB07	*Consumption of alcohol in public place*	*1,761*	*296*	*1,365*	*78*	*2*	*0*	*72*	*4*	*26*	*1*	—	—
DB08	Depositing and leaving litter	1,202	660	496	41	8	1	25	2	12	1	1	0
DB12	*Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises*	*36*	*23*	*11*	*31*	—	—	*2*	*6*	—	—	—	—
DB13	*Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises*	*6*	*4*	*2*	*33*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
DB14	*Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18*	*114*	*79*	*30*	*26*	*1*	*1*	*4*	*4*	—	—	—	—
	England and Wales	*176,164*	*91,289*	*76,155*	*43*	*1,062*	*1*	*4,089*	*2*	*3,514*	*2*	*55*	*0*

"—" = Nil.

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] Offence is a Notifiable offence included within OBTJ figures

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

[Ref: IOS 120-10], [Ref: IOS 124-10], [Ref: IOS 125-10], [Ref: IOS 126-10], [Ref: IOS 127-10], [Ref: IOS 128-10] and [Ref: IOS 129-10]

Animal Experiments: Primates

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department takes steps to ensure that monkeys imported for scientific research from *(a)* China and *(b)* Vietnam have been bred in that country and not re-exported from a third country. [321326]

Meg Hillier: Appraisal of the breeding centres in China and Vietnam currently regarded as acceptable by the Home Office has not revealed any evidence that animals consigned to the United Kingdom have been bred other than at the Chinese or Vietnamese centre in question.

Following each shipment of non-human primates to the United Kingdom, the Inspectorate has access to the full-lifetime records of the individual animals to be used under project licence authority including details of their origin. Second and subsequent Inspectorate visits to overseas sources allow supplementary checks to be made of the reliability of the records provided to the United Kingdom users.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many companies in *(a)* China and *(b)* Vietnam are designated as breeding and supply establishments to supply non-human primates to the UK for the purposes of scientific research. [321341]

Meg Hillier: The Home Office has no authority to designate primate breeders or suppliers outside Great Britain. However, the use of any non-human primate from an overseas source under the authority of a project licence issued under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 requires prior approval which is given only if the conditions at the supplying centre, and at the breeding centre where the animals originate, if different, are acceptable to the Home Office at the time of the supply. There are three centres in China currently considered acceptable to provide non-human primates to UK designated user establishments and one in Vietnam.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of antisocial behaviour police forces in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales have received in each year since 1997. [313498]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The total number of incidents classified as antisocial behaviour as defined within the National Incident Category List (NICL) in 2007-08 and 2008-09 are set out in the table. Data are not available by constituency and were only collected in 2007-08 and 2008-09.

These data are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications.

Force area	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
South Tyneside	19,030	16,233
North East of England[1]	298,864	271,707
England and Wales	3,868,002	[2]3,669,100

[1] For policing purposes the Home Office defines the North East region as consisting of three police forces: Cleveland, Durham, and Northumbria. [2] This figure has increased by 7,602 compared to the figure in PQ ref: 289587 owing to a correction to Wiltshire's figure.

Note:

The data represent calls for service as recorded by police forces under the ASB categories and may be subject to local variation in reporting and classifying.

Arrest Warrants: Operating Costs

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse has been of enforcing European arrest warrants issued in each other EU member state in each year since 2003; and what the average cost to the public purse was of enforcing such a warrant in each of those years. [321191]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 8 March 2010]:* The European arrest warrant has been in operation since 1 January 2004. The Home Office does not hold these data. They could not be accessed without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Translation Services

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies incurred on translators in each year since 1998. [317982]

Alan Johnson: The Department's expenditure on translation and interpretation services from 2003-04 to 2008-09, being the most recent period for which audited figures are available, is as follows:

£000

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Home Office, including UKBA	13,499	14,903	10,419	9,683	9,636	8,301
Identity and Passport Service	3	3	3	6	[1]260	1,177
Criminal Records Bureau	0	0	0	13	0	0

[1] The Identity and Passport Service introduced compulsory face-to-face interviews for first time applicants in 2007-08. The first compulsory interview making use of an interpreter took place on 11 May 2007.

The Home Office figures in the table, for the financial years 2004-05 to 2007-08, do not include those for the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the Office of Criminal Justice and Reform (OCJR), which transferred to Ministry of Justice on 1 April 2007: figures for NOMS and OCJR for 2003-04 could not be deducted from the Home Office total without incurring disproportionate cost.

Data prior to 2003-04 can only be extracted at disproportionate cost.

Firearms: Arrests

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests for possession of a firearm and *(b)* gun-related incidents were recorded in each year since 1997. [320893]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The relevant Home Office data collection includes information on the number of arrests for possession of firearms resulting from searches under the Firearms Act 1968 Section 47 and other legislation. Data on the number of arrests under these powers from 1997-98 to 2007-08 (latest available) are provided in Table (A). The information provided only covers arrests under these powers and does not cover other arrests for firearms.

Information on the number of arrests for possession of firearms not resulting from these searches is not available centrally.

Data on offences in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used from 1997-98 to 2008-09 are given in Tables (B) and (C). Statistics for 2009-10 are scheduled to be published in January 2011.

Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument or used as a threat against a person.

The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Firearm offences before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Table A. Number of arrests for possession of firearms following stops and searches under Section 47 of the firearms act 1968 and other legislation. England and Wales 1997-98 to 2007-08

	Number
1997-98	726
1998-99	707
1999-2000	756
2000-01	815
2001-02	899
2002-03	1,041
2003-04	924
2004-05	1,438
2005-06	1,417
2006-07	1,410
2007-08	1,496

Table B. Firearm offences[1] (excluding air weapons), England and Wales, 1997 to 2001-02

	Number of offences
1997-98	4,903
1998-99[2]	5,209
1999-2000	6,843
2000-01	7,471
2001-02[3]	10,024

[1] Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument or used as a threat

[2] There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.

[3] Figures may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002

Table C. Firearm offences[1] (excluding air weapons), England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2008-09

	Number of offences
2002-03[2]	10,248
2003-04	10,338
2004-05[3]	11,069
2005-06	11,088
2006-07	9,645
2007-08	9,865

Table C Firearm offences[1] (excluding air weapons), England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2008-09

	Number of offences
2008-09	8,208

[1] Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument or used as a threat.

[2] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

[3] More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons introduced on 1 April 2004 may have increased the recording of firearm offences, particularly those committed by imitation weapons.

Intelligence Services

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the guidelines issued by his Department to officers of those intelligence services which fall within his responsibilities on interviewing prisoners abroad have been *(a)* seen and *(b)* agreed by him; and if he will make a statement. [321502]

Mr. Hanson: The draft consolidated guidance is being seen and agreed by the relevant Ministers, which includes myself, and, as the Prime Minister has made clear, will be published shortly.

Post Office

Dr. Palmer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has discussed with Post Office Ltd. the award of the contract set out in tender notice 2009/S 247-354963. [319963]

Meg Hillier: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has not discussed with Post Office Ltd. the award of the contract set out in tender notice 2009/S 247-354963.

Dr. Palmer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he made an assessment of awarding the contract set out in tender notice 2009/S 247-354963 to Post Office Ltd outside the competitive process. [319964]

Meg Hillier: The National Identity Scheme Management Board and its professional advisers concluded that a competition was required to find partners to help provide the services set out in tender notice 2009/S 247-354963. They advised the Secretary of State for the Home Department accordingly.

Prisoners: Health

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the number and proportion of *(a)* youths, *(b)* adult males and *(c)* adult females in custody following sentencing who experienced (i) drug dependency health problems, (ii) alcohol dependency health problems and (iii) serious mental health problems in the last 12 months. [321122]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The Department does not collect information on the number and proportion of sentenced prisoners (including young offenders (18 to 20 years), adult males and adult females) who experienced drug dependency and alcohol dependency health problems.

A source of information regarding prevalence of substance misuse among sentenced prisoners is "The problems and needs of newly sentenced prisoners: results from a national survey" published by the Ministry of Justice in October 2008. This reviewed 1,457 newly sentenced prisoners from 49 prisons.

In 2008, 703 sentenced prisoners were transferred from prison because of a mental illness severe enough to warrant treatment in a mental in-patient facility commissioned by the national health service.

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency staff were based in each overseas country on 1 December 2009. [313504]

Mr. Woolas: 661 UK-based UK Border Agency staff are posted or are working overseas.

Another 1,510 staff locally engaged by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office also work for the UK Border Agency are based abroad.

The following tables give the breakdown by each country:

Table 1: Entirety of work force[1], United Kingdom-based UK Border Agency staff posted or working overseas

Countries[2]	Number
France	125
India	76
Nigeria	68
United Arab Emirates	43
Belgium	36
China	39
South Africa	25
Philippines	23
Russian Federation	21
Ghana	23
Pakistan	17
Bangladesh	12
Jamaica	10
Kenya	10
Turkey	10
Egypt	8
Thailand	8
Poland	6
Total of employees in countries with five or fewer posted UK staff[3]	101
Total	661

[1] Border Force staff as at 31 December 2009, International Group staff as at 22 January 2009.

[2] Countries with more than five posted UK staff.

[3] Total representation in countries with five or fewer posted UK staff.

Table 2: Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff who are locally engaged and are thus based overseas, who work for the UK Border Agency

Country	Locally engaged workers (Number)
India	208
Nigeria	133
China	110
United Arab Emirates	106
Pakistan	88
United States	66

Table 2: Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff who are locally engaged and are thus based overseas, who work for the UK Border Agency

Country	*Locally engaged workers (Number)*
South Africa	51
Bangladesh	43
Philippines	36
Russian Federation	34
Australia	33
Turkey	32
Ghana	31
Thailand	28
Kenya	26
France	18
Germany	18
Iran	17
Malaysia	16
Sri Lanka	14
Italy	13
Jamaica	13
Jordan	13
Saudi Arabia	13
Ukraine	13
Canada	12
Egypt	12
Ethiopia	12
Spain	11
Colombia	10
Gambia, The	9
Irish Republic	9
Kuwait	9
Cyprus	8
Morocco	8
Taiwan (China)	8
Brazil	7
Macedonia	7
Yugoslavia	7
Libya	6
Netherlands	6
Romania	6
Vietnam	6
Countries with five or less locally engaged workers	184
Total	1,510

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Electricity

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) whether he plans to bring forward proposals to set minimum standards for energy loss from distribution transformers in respect of *(a)* the installed base of transformers and *(b)* new units procured by distribution network operators; [321624]

(2) whether he has made a recent estimate of the potential carbon savings arising from the adoption of the highest energy efficiency standards in distribution of transformers distribution network operators; and if he will make a statement; [321625]

(3) what mechanisms are in place to encourage distribution network operators to procure the most
energy efficient distribution transformers; and if he w
make a statement. [3216

Mr. Kidney: DECC's policy is to ensure that gri
including at distribution level, support the new generati
mix we need to meet our targets.

Ofgem did consider setting minimum standards f
losses as part of its review of the losses incentive
DPCR5 but opted to retain the output based incenti
(which was improved in DPCR5) in order to encoura
distribution network operators (DNOs) to manage loss
both through low loss technology and also throu
network operations or network users and to incentivi
them to identify ways to tackle the issue of theft.

The downside of setting minimum standards wou
be the need for Ofgem to specify equipment whic
could lead to the risk of equipment market distortic
and could stifle DNO's innovation on technical lo
reduction.

Insulation

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State fo
Energy and Climate Change whether his Departmen
has made an estimate of the number of homes whic
require *(a)* additional loft insulation, *(b)* cavity wa
insulation, *(c)* draught proofing and *(d)* new heatin
controls for the purposes of increasing their energ
efficiency. [32032

Joan Ruddock: The English Housing Survey publishe
by the Department for Communities and Loca
Government provides annual estimates on loft insulatior
cavity wall insulation and heating controls. Using th
approach contained within the Energy Performanc
Certificate, the 2007 report from the survey identifie
the following number of homes that would benefit (tha
is, their energy efficiency rating would significantly increase
in terms of loft insulation, cavity wall insulation anc
heating controls. The survey is not able to measure th
benefiting impact of draught proofing.

This is an estimate of the number of properties tha
would benefit from this measure, but that does no
imply any requirement for such measures. The survey
also does not take into account any practical issues o
installing such measures. Many of these homes will b
performing to a reasonable standard in terms of thei
energy efficiency.

EPC recommended energy efficiency measures, 2007

	Size of applicable group[1] (thousand)	*Number of dwellings that would benefit from the measure (thousand)*	*Percentage*
Loft insulation	19,908	8,871	45
Cavity wall	15,527	7,088	46
Heating controls	19,499	7,784	40

[1] The total number of dwellings that have some level of existing loft insulation; have cavity walls, including those already insulated; have heating systems appropriate for heating controls, including those with controls fitted.

Source:

English House Condition Survey 2007 Annual Report, Table 2.6, pg 119 CLG.

Figures for 2008 will be published later in the year.

Warm Front Scheme

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households have had works funded by the Warm Front scheme in each month since January 2009. [320326]

Mr. Kidney: The following table shows the number of households which have received works funded by Warm Front in each month since January 2009 to January 2010, the latest month for which figures are currently available.

	Number of households assisted
January 2009	19,402
February 2009	30,023
March 2009	21,674
April 2009	17,690
May 2009	21,004
June 2009	19,960
July 2009	15,954
August 2009	19,676
September 2009	24,308
October 2009	20,664
November 2009	17,855
December 2009	15,982
January 2010	12,010

Wind Power

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate his Department has made of the proportion of UK electricity that will come from *(a)* onshore and *(b)* offshore wind in (i) 2012, (ii) 2015 and (iii) 2020. [321255]

Mr. Kidney: The Renewable Energy Strategy (July 2009) contains recent analysis of the full technology breakdown to achieve the renewable energy target on a consistent basis across instruments and technologies. It is based on economic modelling of the costs and support for renewable technologies in the electricity, heat and transport sectors. The data below are based on the lead scenario from the Renewable Energy Strategy for large-scale electricity, which reaches 29 per cent. large-scale renewable electricity in 2020, and include estimates of onshore wind additionally brought on through feed in tariffs. However these numbers are just an illustrative mix on how we could reach 29 per cent. large scale renewable generation. The Government do not set targets for individual energy generation technologies but take a market-based approach to generation.

Percentage

Electricity generation from	*2012*	*2015*	*2020*
Onshore wind	4	5	9
Offshore wind	2	5	11

Source:
Data are based on analysis by independent consultants Redpoint/Trilemma and Element Energy for the renewable energy strategy.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the gross internal floor area *(a)* before and *(b)* after rebuilding was of each school that has been rebuilt under the Building Schools for the Future programme. [319982]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 2 March 2010]:* Neither the Department nor Partnerships for Schools routinely collects information about the gross internal floor area of schools before they are rebuilt under the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. However, we require all secondary schools to be in line with the Department's current area guidelines, for example, Building Bulletin 98 'Briefing Framework for Secondary School Projects', published in 2004, and Building Bulletin 82 'Area Guidelines for Schools', published in 1996. Prior to 1996 schools had to comply with statutory Minimum Teaching Area.

The following table shows the gross internal floor area for schools completed as part of BSF where data are available. It excludes 'quick win' projects (those in wave 1 of BSF that were accelerated for early completion) and 'one school pathfinders' (single projects for those local authorities in later BSF waves).

Local authority	*School*	*Gross internal floor area m²*
Bradford	Titus Salt School	16,773
Bradford	Tong High School	15,145
Bradford	Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College	15,965
Bristol	Bristol Brunel Academy	13,056
Bristol	The Bridge Learning Campus	14,450
Bristol	Brislington Enterprise College	17,640
Bristol	Bristol Metropolitan College	11,200
Durham	Durham Johnston	13,100
Hackney	Stoke Newington School (Phase 1)	13,430
Hackney	Clapton Girls Technology College	11,077
Haringey	John Loughborough	2,977
Haringey	Highgate Wood Secondary School	11,970
Haringey	Alexandra Park School	12,256
Haringey	Gladesmore Community School	10,034
Haringey	Homsey School for Girls	11,739
Haringey	Park View Academy	12,462
Haringey	Northumberland Park Community School	13,985
Islington	Holloway School	8,215
Islington	Highbury Grove + New Sixth Form	12,626
Islington	Samuel Rhodes SEN School	2,834
Kent	Dane Court School	10,148
Kent	The Community College Whitstable	10,777
Kent	Northfleet School for Girls (phase 1)	9,861
Kent	St. George's Church of England Foundation School (phase 1)	8,242
Knowsley	All Saints Centre for Learning	10,872
Knowsley	St. Edmunds Arrowsmith Centre for Learning	10,315
Knowsley	Huyton Arts & Sports Centre for Learning	10,949

Local authority	*School*	*Gross internal floor area m^2*
Knowsley	Knowsley Park Centre for Learning—serving Prescot, Whitson and the wider community	10,844
Knowsley	Kirkby Sports College	10,872
Knowsley	Halewood Centre for Learning	12,455
Knowsley	Christ the King Catholic and Church of England Centre for Learning	9,585
Lambeth	Stockwell Park	11,919
Lambeth	Elm Court Special School	1,272
Lambeth	Park Campus	2,399
Lambeth	The Michael Tippett School	3,468
Lambeth	Elmgreen School (temporary accommodation)	12,240
Lancashire	Sir John Thursby Community College	13,574
Lancashire	Burnley Campus (Thomas Whitham Sixth Form)	13,262
Lancashire	Pendle Vale Campus	14,122
Lancashire	Shuttleworth College	9,888
Leeds	Swallow Hill Community College	13,965
Leeds	Allerton Grange	13,528
Leeds	Cockburn College of Arts	10,336
Leeds	Allerton High School	12,114
Leeds	Pudsey Grangefield School	10,528
Leeds	Rodillian School	12,485
Leeds	Temple Moor High School	11,811
Leeds	Crawshaw	11,528
Leicester	Soar Valley College	13,291
Leicester	Judgemeadow Community College	10,750
Leicester	Beaumont Leys	10,129
Leicester	Fullhurst Community College	9,225
Lewisham	Catford	8,873
Lewisham	Sedgehill	15,227
Liverpool	Lower Lee SEN School	4,631
Manchester	Enterprise Academy	8,278
Manchester	Health Academy	7,273
Manchester	Our Lady's RC Sports College (Higher Blackley Education Village)	7,023
Manchester	St. Matthews RC High School	9,541
Manchester	Newall Green High School	5,028
Manchester	Gorton Education Village	11,931
Manchester	St. Paul's	13,112
Manchester	Gorton Education Village (Melland High School)	4,110
Manchester	Piper Hill	13,112
Manchester	Meade Hill (Part of Higher Blackley Education Village)	2,745
Manchester	Buglawton Hall	2,850
Newcastle	Kenton School	19,382
Newcastle	Benfield School (phase 1 of refurb)	11,461
Newcastle	Walbottle Campus Technology College	17,106
Newcastle	Thomas Bewick (Previous PFI delivered by LEP)	4,106
Newham	Brampton Manor School	15,186
Nottingham	Big Wood	7,759
Nottingham	Hadden Park High School (phase 1)	9,728
Sheffield	Yewlands Technology College (two phases)	9,143
Sheffield	Talbot Special School	4,199
Sheffield	Newfield Secondary School	8,366
Sheffield	Silverdale Secondary School	10,913
Solihull	Archbishop Grimshaw Catholic School	12,086
Solihull	Smith's Wood	12,850
Solihull	Park Hall School	12,557
Solihull	Lanchester School	3,911
South Tyneside	Mortimer Community College	11,105
South Tyneside	Jarrow School	9,383
Sunderland	Red House Academy	5,322
Sunderland	Castle View Enterprise Academy	7,880
Sunderland	Academy 360	10,104
Sunderland	Washington School	8,903
Waltham Forest	Walthamstow School for Girls	9,614
Waltham Forest	Frederick Bremer	9,519
Waltham Forest	Kelmscott School	7,413
Westminster	Westminster City Boys	8,344
Westminster	St. Marylebone CE	9,198
Westminster	Pimlico	12,769

Note:

The gross floor areas are estimates based on returns from local authorities

Departmental Taxis

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what contracts his Department has with private hire taxi companies; and what expenditure his Department has incurred on such contracts in each year since his Department was established. [300837]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created in June 2007. The Department does not currently have any contracts with private hire taxi companies but does have an arrangement with the Government Car Despatch Agency (GCDA). Any other expenditure incurred would be through account arrangements or through spot hire.

Expenditure incurred for each year with companies through accounts or spot hire since the Department was established is as follows. These figures also include expenditure (GCDA).

	£
June 2007 to March 2008	247,738.00
April 2008 to March 2009	319,447.03
April 2009 to December 2009	237,359.30
Total	804,544.33

Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Stroud constituency, the effects on that constituency of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessors since 2000. [321479]

Mr. Coaker: Since 2000 the Government have transformed education and child care with improved outcomes for children and young people. Figures showing the performance at Key Stage 2 and GCSE and equivalents in Stroud are given in the following tables:

Key Stage 2 results of 11-year-old pupils attending schools[1] in the Stroud constituency

Percentage of pupils gaining level 4 and above	*2000*	*2009[2]*	*Percentage point improvement 2000-09*
Stroud			
English	79	86	7
Maths	77	84	7
Science	89	92	3
England			
English	75	80	5
Maths	72	79	7
Science	85	88	3

[1] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including academies and city technology colleges).

[2] Revised data.

Source:

School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables.

GCSE and equivalents[1] results for pupils[2] attending schools[3] in the Stroud constituency

Percentage of pupils gaining	*2000*	*2009[4]*	*Percentage point improvement 2000-09*
Stroud			
5+ A*-C	61.3	70.2	8.9
5+ A*-G	95.1	94.0	-1.1
England			
5+ A*-C[5]	49.2	70.0	20.8
5+ A*-G[5]	88.9	92.3	3.4

[1] From 2004 results incorporate GCSEs, GNVQs and a range of other qualifications approved pre-16. Prior to 2004 results are based on GCSEs and GNVQs only.

[2] From 2006 figures are for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. Prior to 2006 results are based on pupils aged 15.

[3] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including academies and city technology colleges) and from 2000 does not include pupils recently arrived from overseas.

[4] Revised data.

[5] England figures also include independent schools as well as hospital schools and PRUs.

Source:

School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables.

Further information by constituency is provided within the Department's "In Your Area" website available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/inyourarea

Information available at constituency level includes the number of specialist schools, number of operational academies, number of teaching assistants and other support staff, number of teachers and pupil:teacher ratios. Where information is not available at constituency level it has been provided at local authority level.

Additional information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Support for All: The Families and Relationships

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been allocated to fund specialist relationship counselling services for families with disabled children as referred to in the Green Paper, "Support for All: the Families and Relationships" in the last 12 months. [318284]

Dawn Primarolo: The funding for the proposals outlined in "Support for All: the Families and Relationships" Green Paper has been allocated from current budgets. We have provided over £3.5 million of strategic funding to a range of third sector organisations, such as Relate, Marriage Care and the Asian Family Counselling Service, who provide relationship counselling for families, including those with disabled children. Over the past year, we have also provided funding of £3.1 million to support families through the recession, including £1 million to Relate for more face-to-face and telephone counselling to families, again including those with disabled children.

In addition, around £400,000 for 2010-11 has been re-prioritised from the current Aiming High for Disabled Children budget to provide specialist relationship counselling services for families with disabled children and to enhance helpline support for these families through third sector organisations.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Food

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the duration is of his Department's contract with Purple Foodservice Solutions for armed forces food supply; and when that contract will be reviewed for the purpose of inviting competitive bids. [320754]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) food supply contract with Purple Foodservice Solutions (PFS) commenced in October 2006; it is a five-year contract with two two-year extension options. The MOD has taken up the first of these options and the contract is currently due to expire in October 2013. The MOD is considering the merits of extending the current contract with PFS against the benefits of competition.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British soldiers have been treated at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court in each of the last five years. [321327]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following table presents the number of personnel from all three services treated at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) Headley Court from September 2008, by patient status (in-patient/out-patient/residential patient). Patients are treated for injuries and illnesses requiring rehabilitation that have arisen as a result of both operational and non-operational circumstances.

	2008 (September-December)	*2009*
In-patients	98	304
Out-patients	882	2,414
Residential patients	335	806
All	1,136	2,607

Notes:

1. An in-patient is a patient that has been admitted and allocated a ward bed. A residential patient is a patient that [illegible] on a three week rehabilitation course; they are not allocated a ward bed, but reside in dormitory style accommodation. An outpatient is a non-resident patient attending DMRC for treatment.

2. Patients include naval service personnel, Army personnel (including those from the Gibraltar Regiment), RAF personnel, and reservists. The totals shown exclude special forces and other nations service personnel.

3. The Defence Patient Tracking System (DPTS) is a live system that is constantly being updated. Therefore data are provisional and subject to change.

Information on the total number of patients treated at DMRC has only been captured by the DPTS since 1 September 2008. Prior to this date only patients treated at DMRC following aero-medical evacuation to the UK were captured on the DPTS. Figures between October 2007 and August 2008 are included in monthly statistics published by MOD's Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) organisation on armed forces personnel returned to the UK from Iraq and Afghanistan as a result of an injury or illness who have been treated at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM) Birmingham and at Headley Court. Monthly reports for the whole of 2007, 2008 and 2009 are available both in the Library of the House and on the DASA website at the following link:

www.dasa.mod.uk

Equivalent verified data prior to this date are not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British soldiers have been treated in Selly Oak Hospital in each of the last five years. [321331]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence's Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) organisation publishes information on Armed Forces personnel returned to the UK from Iraq and Afghanistan as a result of an injury or illness, who have been treated at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM) Birmingham. Monthly reports covering the period October 2007 to January 2010 are available both in the Library of the House and on the DASA website at:

www.dasa.mod.uk

Equivalent verified data prior to this date are not available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

The following table offers a summary of the DASA data, showing Armed Forces personnel treated at RCDM Birmingham and the cause of their injury/illness.

	Battle injury	*Non-battle injury*	*Natural causes*	*All*
2007[1]	54	65	31	150
2008	218	270	224	712
2009	411	285	211	907
Total	683	620	466	1,769

[1] October to December.

Notes:

1. A battle injury includes those wounded as a result of hostile action. This includes injuries sustained while avoiding direct and indirect fire. A non-battle injury is any injury that is not caused by a hostile act and includes any accidental injuries such as sports injuries, road traffic accidents etc.
2. Patient totals include Naval Service personnel, Army personnel (including those from the Gibraltar Regiment), RAF personnel, and reservists. These totals exclude Special Forces, other nations' Service personnel, and patients returned from theatres other than Iraq and Afghanistan. Numbers include both in- and out-patients.
3. Some data are provisional and subject to change.

Armed Forces: Rescue Services

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the UK's long-distance fixed-wing search and rescue capability following the withdrawal from service of the Nimrod MR2. [321289]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 1 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 47W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) and the answer I gave him on 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 678W.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the operational radius is for Sea King helicopters based at RAF Lossiemouth for the search and rescue task. [321291]

Bill Rammell: The maximum operational radius for the RAF Sea King Mk 3/3a is 240 nautical miles. The Sea King undertakes short range Search and Rescue tasks.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what multi-agency radio communication equipment is available for RAF C-130 Hercules aircraft for communication with fishing and merchant vessels during long-range search and rescue missions; [321292]

(2) what onboard communications capability the C-130 Hercules has to co-ordinate search and rescue agencies involved in major off-shore incidents. [321322]

Bill Rammell: The Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre (ARCC), based at RAF Kinloss, is responsible for co-ordinating major off-shore incidents and multi-agency rescues. An on the scene co-ordinator may be designated, if required, by the ARCC. If appropriate, this could be an RAF aircraft.

RAF Hercules C130K and C130J have HF, UHF and VHF radios using aeronautical and marine frequency bands as standard equipment. This would enable them to communicate with and co-ordinate civil and military aircraft, ships and ground stations including the ARCC and HM Coastguard.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions a UK-based Hercules C-130 has been called out on a search and rescue mission in each of the last five years. [321324]

Bill Rammell: In the last five years a Hercules C130 aircraft has been utilised on a Search and Rescue task only once, to provide on-scene co-ordination for the rescue of a civilian casualty from a ship at sea.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on *(a)* how many occasions and *(b)* for what duration search and rescue assets at RAF Gannett have been unavailable during the last 12 months; and on what proportion of such occasions those assets were unavailable because of (i) aircrew shortages and (ii) technical problems. [321334]

Bill Rammell: During the period 1 March 2009 to 28 February 2010, the Search and Rescue aircraft at HMS Gannet were available for 97 per cent. of the time. There were 46 occasions when an aircraft was not available at the required notice of 15 minutes by day, 45 minutes by night. These occasions were all due to technical problems. The average down-time was three and a half hours, although there were four occasions when an aircraft was not available for a period of over 24 hours. These four occurred during a period when Gannet had loaned one of its complement of three aircraft to its sister SAR unit, 771 Naval Air Station based at RNAS Culdrose.

On an occasion when no aircraft was available, any calls for assistance received by the Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre at RAF Kinloss would have been channelled to RAF Stations at Lossiemouth or Boulmer or to the Maritime Coastguard Agency at Stornoway.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence *(a)* how many S-92 helicopters his Department plans to procure for the UK-based search and rescue helicopter task and *(b)* where those helicopters will be based. [321335]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The future joint Ministry of Defence/Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MOD/MCA) Search and Rescue Helicopter service will be provided by the contractor Soteria under a service contract - MOD/MCA will not be procuring any helicopters. It will be the contractor's responsibility to ensure, throughout the life of the contract, that they have sufficient helicopters to meet the requirement to be able to field one helicopter to incidents from each base during its operating hours. The helicopters will be based at RAF Boulmer, RMB Chivenor, RNAS Culdrose, Glasgow Airport, Leconfield, Lee On Solent, RAF Lossiemouth, Portland, Stornoway, Sumburgh, RAF Valley and Wattisham Airfield.

Armed Forces: Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many vehicle urgent operational requirements of each type have been *(a)* ordered and *(b)* delivered to Headquarters Land Forces since 2006. [319489]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The breakdown of UOR vehicles by each type ordered and delivered since 2006 is as follows:

Vehicle	*Total qty ordered*	*Number of UOR procurements*	*Date of first order*	*Achieved/forecast date of last delivery to MOD/user*	*Qty issued to Purple Gate*	*Qty delivered to land forces*
Mastiff (1 and 2)	299	5	1 January 2007 2 August 2008	Spring 2011	275	207
Wolfhound	101	2	April 2009	Winter 2010/spring 2011	32	8
Ridgback	177	2	October 2008	Summer 2011	156	125
Jackal (1 and 2)	445	6	July 2007	Winter 2010	332	260
Coyote	76	1	April 2009	Spring 2010	52	36
Husky	333	2	February 2009	Spring 2010	218	86
Snatch Vixen (Plus)	100	1	March 2009	Summer 2010	87	49
Snatch Vixen	32	1	August 2008	Autumn 2008	31	0
Vector	198	5	June 2006	Spring 2011	178	127
Talisman Systems	6	1	July 2008	Spring 2010	0	0
Cougar	30	1	November 2008	Summer 2009	30	30
Warthog	115	2	December 2008	Autumn 2010	4	0
Springer	78	1	December 2008	Summer 2009	78	75
Total	1984 + 6 Talisman systems	30	—	—	1,473	1,003

The quantities delivered to land forces are for whole vehicle UOR platforms and do not include details of those vehicles delivered to MOD, awaiting receipt and inspection by land. It should be noted that while land forces is the major recipient of many of these UOR procurements, vehicles are also delivered to other defence users. Also excluded are non UOR vehicles which have had UORs added to them. In addition, I am withholding details of covert vehicles, civilian armoured vehicles, EOD vehicles and special forces procurements as this could compromise operational security.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when he expects the delivery of the order for the Light Protected Patrol Vehicle to be completed; [321708]

(2) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 802, on Future Defence Programme, whether the £280 million funding for the new vehicles includes funding for the Light Protected Patrol Vehicle; [321721]

(3) when he expects the assessment phase of the Light Protected Patrol Vehicle programme to be completed; [321722]

(4) what the cost of the Light Protected Patrol Vehicle order is to *(a)* his Department's core budget and *(b)* the contingency reserve; [321723]

(5) whether a target *(a)* main gate and *(b)* in-service date has been set for the Light Protected Patrol Vehicle; [321724]

(6) how many tranches will form the full order of the Light Protected Patrol Vehicle; and what the total number of vehicles will be. [321725]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Two contenders, which could fill the Light Protected Patrol Vehicle (LPPV) requirement, are currently being assessed as part of a Concept Vehicle Evaluation. It is expected that this assessment phase will be complete in early April 2010. It is currently assessed that 200 LPPV will meet the need in Afghanistan. These 200 vehicles will form the first batch ordered under an Urgent Operational Requirement (UOR) as soon as the design was ready, in order to get them into theatre as quickly as possible.

Until the full military requirement has been refined we judge that it makes sense to order an initial batch of 200 vehicles with a view to further buys in future. Buying vehicles in tranches allows us to learn lessons, to modify the vehicle if necessary and helps speed up the delivery of future orders.

Due to commercial sensitivities, and while the full requirement is being refined, I am unable to comment on the likely cost of the full LPPV order, or the funding arrangements. I can, however, confirm that the initial batch of 200 vehicles will be funded from the Treasury reserve as a UOR. This will be over and above the £280 million for additional equipment announced by the Secretary of State for Defence on 15 December 2009. A business case will be submitted for the initial 200 vehicles in the coming weeks, once the assessment is complete. As the contract for the LPPV requirement has yet to be let, delivery details cannot be confirmed at this stage as they are still subject to commercial negotiations, but we intend that they should be delivered in 2011.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information technology projects initiated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were cancelled prior to completion in the last 12 months; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [320428]

Bill Rammell: The Ministry of Defence and its Agencies (excluding trading funds) did not cancel any of its information technology projects, prior to completion, during Financial Year 2008-09. This excludes low value projects funded locally by individual units across the Department. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Interpreters

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Pashto and *(b)* Dari interpreters are employed by his Department. [321153]

Bill Rammell: No professional Pashto or Dari interpreters are currently employed by the Department. However, military personnel who have been trained to higher levels of proficiency in Pashto and Dari are available. Although not at the level of a professional interpreter, they are able to provide trusted translation and some consecutive interpreting capability.

When professional interpreting services are required, external provision is sought by the customer area from commercial agencies.

Joint Strike Fighter

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future procurement of the Joint Strike Fighter. [321337]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Government remain committed to the Joint Strike Fighter as stated by the then Secretary of State on 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 54WS, on the approval to purchase three Joint Strike Fighters to allow the UK to participate in Operational Test and Evaluation in the US. The Joint Strike Fighter remains the optimum solution to the UK's Joint Combat Aircraft requirement as part of our Carrier Strike programme. We have not made further investment decisions at this stage and cannot, therefore, announce overall numbers, variants or the in-service date.

Land Mines: Detectors

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on the provision of pre-deployment mine detection training. [321367]

Bill Rammell: Personnel are trained in Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Tactics, Techniques and Procedures and how to use the Vallon Hand Held Metal Detector during pre-deployment training, if their operational role in theatre requires it. Additional training is provided on arrival in theatre to ensure that personnel are given the latest tactics, techniques and procedures. All pre-deployment training is reviewed constantly in the light of operational experience.

Military Aircraft: Deployment

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maximum flight endurance time without mid air refuelling is for a *(a)* Typhoon eurofighter, *(b)* Harrier GR9, *(c)* Tornado GR4 and *(d)* Super Tucano; and what the average fuel consumption level is for each aircraft. [319849]

Bill Rammell: Flight endurance and fuel consumption depend on a number of factors including payload, operating altitude, weather conditions (including ambient temperature) and speed. To achieve maximum endurance, the aircraft types requested would have to be flown with no operational weapons and would be fitted with the maximum number of additional external fuel tanks instead. Combat aircraft do not fly in this configuration when conducting operations, as this would negate their combat capability.

For academic purposes given the same atmospheric conditions, a single-engine turboprop aircraft such as the Super Tucano flying in this configuration would have greater endurance and lower fuel consumption rate than fast jet types but would have less endurance than turboprop unmanned aerial vehicles like Reaper.

Fast jet aircraft have significant advantages in terms of faster transit times, higher operating altitudes and greater weapons, avionics and defensive aids payloads. This provides greater operational flexibility and agility. Furthermore, unrefuelled flight endurance is a relatively minor factor for fast jets, as the Tornado, Harrier and Typhoon would benefit from air-to-air refuelling.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual number of pilots was for (i) Apache, (ii) Chinook and (iii) Merlin helicopters on the latest date for which figures are available. [320005]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Aircraft type	*Required strength*	*Actual strength*
Apache	100	88
Chinook	24	118
Merlin Mk 1	60	50
Merlin Mk 3	80	71

All our operational commitments for these helicopters are being met.

Required and actual strengths will both naturally vary with time due to many factors including: operational requirements; the introduction of newly trained crew on completion of training courses at set times during the year, the number of trained personnel assigned to non-flying duties (as part of the necessary broader career development), injuries, and service leavers.

In addition, the RAF is going through a high level of change with aircraft drawing down, going through structure change, forming new squadrons or bringing new aircraft into service. Therefore, crew figures are fluctuating continually.

Warships

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has had with its *(a)* New Zealand and *(b)* Australian counterparts on joint co-operation in the procurement of (i) the Future Surface Combatant C1 vessels and (ii) the Future Mine Countermeasures, Hydrographic and Patrol Vessels. [321703]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Ministry of Defence officials have held a number of discussions with their Australian and New Zealand counterparts on a range of maritime issues, including potential ways of working together on areas of common interest in the new generations of Combat warships and Mine Countermeasures, Hydrographic and Patrol vessels. These discussions are at an early stage and it is too soon to say what the outcome will be.

HEALTH

Baby Care Units: Nurses

Miss Widdecombe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to increase the number of neonatal nurses. [321628]

Ann Keen: It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local authorities, strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, and to commission services accordingly.

Dental Services: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of the *(a)* child and *(b)* adult population resident in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point constituency attended an appointment with an NHS dentist in each of the last five years. [321440]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

The number of adults and children registered with a national health service dentist in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex A of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and by strategic health authority (SHA). Annex B contains this information expressed as a percentage of the population. Annex C provides the number of adults and children registered with an NHS dentist for the same time periods by parliamentary constituency.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24 month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

Information on the number of adult and child patients seen in the previous 24 months, in England, is available in Table DI of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics, Quarter 2: 30 September 2009" report. Information is available at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 31 December 2009 and is provided by PCT and SHA, but is not available by parliamentary constituency. Table D2 provides this information expressed as a percentage of the population.

This report, published on 23 February 2010, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0910q2

Departmental Location

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on the relocation of staff from posts in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years. [321428]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally. The national reconfiguration of primary care trusts (PCTs) in October 2006 saw Castle Point and Rochford PCT merge with Southend PCT to become South East Essex PCT, which involved staff relocation. This was managed by local national health service organisations.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 103W, on departmental marketing, how much his Department and agencies have spent on advertising, marketing, public relations and publicity in relation to the *(a)* Real Help Now and *(b)* Building Britain's Future themed campaign to date. [320456]

Phil Hope: Although the Department has used branding from Building Britain's Future on policy documents it is not aware of any expenditure on advertising, marketing, public relations and publicity directly related to the Real Help Now and Building Britain's Future campaigns.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff of each grade in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies spent on first class travel in the last 12 months. [320398]

Phil Hope: In the last 12 months from March 2009 to February 2010 the Department and its agencies spent the following amounts on first class travel.

	Total (£)
Department of Health	
Ministers	7,908
All other grades	2,316,371
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulation Agency	
All grades	7,573
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency	
Director/SCSI	6,106.39
Grade 6	3,378.10
Grade 7	2,496.54
SEO	4,121.88
HEO	401.22

No staffing grade breakdown is available for other users.

Health Services: Rural Areas

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of services provided by his Department which are targeted at people living in rural areas; [320570]

(2) what account his Department takes of the needs of disadvantaged people in rural areas in determining the targeting of strategies to deliver its services. [321271]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Primary care trusts are responsible for assessing the needs of their populations and commissioning services to meet those needs. This includes ensuring that services meet the needs of all groups within their population, such as those living in rural areas.

Health Visitors: South East

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors have been employed in each primary care trust in the South East in each year since 1997. [321450]

Ann Keen: The information is shown in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified health visiting staff in England by South East Coast and South Central Strategic Health Authority (SHA) areas and by organisation as at 30 September each specified year

									Headcount
		2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
South East Coast and South Central SHA		941	2,006	2,016	2,006	1,911	1,646	1,552	1,473
South East Coast SHA		201	942	903	971	891	712	696	689
East Sussex Downs and Weald Primary Care Trust (PCT)	5P7	0	91	84	75	81	42	72	70
Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching PCT	5QA	0	161	150	170	146	151	146	148
Hastings and Rother PCT	5P8	49	48	47	43	46	40	40	40
Medway PCT	5L3	0	71	71	89	85	69	65	58
Surrey PCT	5P5	0	260	236	240	242	200	179	163
West Kent PCT	5P9	111	143	158	154	135	43	40	91
West Sussex Teaching PCT[4]	5P6	41	168	157	200	156	167	145	119
South Central SHA		740	1,064	1,113	1,035	1,020	934	856	784
Berkshire East Teaching PCT	5QG	29	104	100	100	101	96	94	78
Berkshire West PCT	5QF	115	116	117	113	114	111	109	87
Buckinghamshire PCT	5QD	165	178	181	182	176	133	106	103
Hampshire PCT	5QC	148	275	321	275	262	234	217	192
Isle of Wight Healthcare PCT[1]	5QT	30	29	28	2	19	16	16	19
Milton Keynes PCT	5CQ	49	71	67	54	63	66	64	58
Oxfordshire PCT	5QE	86	172	189	183	164	158	149	157
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	5FE	43	53	49	51	53	52	53	48
Southampton City PCT	5L1	75	66	61	75	68	68	48	42

Notes:

1. 2001-08 figures are mapped to their current organisational structure.
2. 2000 and previous data do not provide comparative figures to the current organisational structures, and as such are not included in this table.
3. [1]It appears that data provided in 2004 were incorrectly coded for this organisation and corrected in subsequent years.
4. Brighton and Hove PCT do not have any health visitors coded on their Non-Medical Census returns for the years provided.
5. Data Quality

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

HIV Infection and Hepatitis

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department are working on policy on *(a)* HIV, *(b)* hepatitis B and *(c)* hepatitis C. [321149]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Infectious disease	*Whole-time equivalent (WTE)*
HIV	2.4
Hepatitis B	0.65
Hepatitis C	1.55

In addition, the Offender Health team provides 0.2 WTE for work on HIV and other blood borne viruses in the prison setting.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what epidemiology and surveillance studies commissioned by his Department are being undertaken into *(a)* HIV, *(b)* hepatitis B and *(c)* hepatitis C; [321150]

(2) how much was spent on surveillance and epidemiology of *(a)* HIV, *(b)* hepatitis B and *(c)* hepatitis C in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [321151]

Gillian Merron: Information on epidemiology and surveillance studies commissioned by the Department is shown by financial year in the following table.

Department of Health—epidemiology and surveillance studies 2007-08 to 2009-10

(£)

Studies	*Organisation*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Estimation of hepatitis C related morbidity	Health Protection Agency	62,697	5,211	73,423
Prevalence of hepatitis C in antenatal clinic attenders	Health Protection Agency	25,852	—	—
Prevalence of hepatitis C in genito urinary medicine clinic attenders in England	Health Protection Agency	25,604	—	—
Case finding and prevalence of chronic viral hepatitis in South Asians living in the United Kingdom	Health Protection Agency	37,349	—	—
Surveillance of hepatitis C testing	Health Protection Agency	125,217	65,267	65,267
Monitoring hepatitis C related care in the NHS: a one year pilot study	Health Protection Agency		17,205	65,267
Monitoring and modelling prognosis in the era of Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy	University of Bristol	42,016		
Sexual at[illegible] and lifestyles of London's [illegible]stern Europeans	University College London	72,230	145,957	73,726
Experiences of female migrant sex workers from Eastern Europe and effect of multiple vulnerabilities on risk of Sexual Transmitted Infections/HIV	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	50,776	119,703	34,463
British Paediatric Surveillance Unit - surveillance of HIV	Health Protection Agency	3,600	3,600	3,600

Influenza: Health Services

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to ensure that the findings from his assessment of the swine influenza pandemic campaign will inform planning for the NHS response to seasonal influenza. [321088]

Gillian Merron: We have already learned many lessons from the swine flu pandemic, which we are currently consolidating. The national response to the swine flu pandemic will be subject to rigorous scrutiny to assess its appropriateness, effectiveness and value for money, alongside local and regional reviews of the national health service response. The timetable for this work has not yet been finalised. The Department always evaluates its public communications campaigns and uses the results to inform planning for future activity. This information is also shared with those involved in communications in the NHS.

The Department is currently planning for the 2010-11 seasonal influenza vaccination programme. These and future plans will be informed by the experience from previous seasonal flu vaccination programmes, as well as the experience from the swine flu vaccination programme.

Mentally Ill: Community Care

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of patients subject to community treatment orders were referred to a doctor for a second opinion within 28 days of being released from hospital in each quarter since November 2008; how many doctors were available to provide second opinions for community treatment orders; and if he will make a statement. [321343]

Phil Hope: The following information has been provided by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), which is responsible for the appointment of second opinion appointed doctors (SOADs) in accordance with the Mental Health Act 1983.

The first table shows, by quarter, the number of requests received by CQC for SOAD opinions in respect of patients on community treatment orders (CTOs) between 3 November 2008 and 8 March 2010 and the proportion of such requests which were received within 28 days of start of the CTO. The table shows that, overall, 60 per cent. of requests were received within the 28 day period. To improve this position and to help ensure that all requests are received and allocated within the first 28 days, CQC has written to mental health providers to ask that requests be submitted within 48 hours of the start of a CTO.

The second table gives information on the number of doctors on CQC's panel of doctors who are available to be appointed to give SOAD opinions in individual cases (the SOADs panel).

Table: Requests for SOAD opinions for CTO patients by quarter, showing number and proportion received within first 28 days of the CTO

Quarter	Total requests received	Number of requests received with first 28 days	Proportion of total (%)
Q3 2008-2009[1] (3 November 2008 to 31 December 08)	419	313	75
Q4 2008-09 (1 January 2009 to 31 March 2009)	1,234	744	60
Q1 2009-10 (1 April 2009 to 30 June 2009)	1,199	694	58
Q2 2009-10 (1 July 2009 to 30 September 2009)	1,048	589	56
Q3 2009-10 (1 October 2009 to 31 December 2009)	1,049	642	61
Q4 2009-10[2] (1 January 2010 to 8 March 2010)	793	441	56
Total	5,742	3,423	60

[1] Information for the third quarter of 2008-2009 covers only the period from 3 November, when CTOs were first introduced, to 31 December.

[2] Information for the current quarter is complete to 8 March 2010.

Source:

Care Quality Commission.

Table: Number of doctors on CQC SOADs panel, by date.

	Number of SOADs
1 November 2008	101
1 January 2009	110
1 April 2009	98
1 July 2009	97
1 October 2009	107
1 January 2010	111
8 March 2010	115

Note:

Doctors on the panel may not have been available to give SOAD opinions at all times during each period.

Source:

Care Quality Commission.

Methadone: Young Offenders

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 6 July 2009, *Official Report,* column 589W, on methadone: young offenders, if he will take steps to record information on the treatment of young offenders with methadone and subutex; and whether his Department has undertaken an evaluation of *(a)* the value for money and *(b)* effectiveness of the use of (i) methadone and (ii) subutex for the treatment of drug misuse amongst young offenders in custodial settings. [321632]

Phil Hope: As stated in the answer of 6 July 2009, information on the treatment of young offenders with methadone and subutex is not currently available.

A joint Home Office, National Treatment Agency and Department of Health project has redesigned the Drug Information Record (DIR) and Prison Activity Form which came into use on 1 April 2009. There are some changes to the DIR but most of the changes are to the Activity Form. The new Activity Form will be used for all new significant events (treatment starts and types of treatment, such as detoxification and maintenance prescription) for new clients and existing caseload clients.

The DIR form is used for data collection for all adults including those aged 18 to 20. As data quality improves, we hope to have accurate baseline data next year for this age group for 2010-11.

Clinical interventions (including methadone and subutex) for drug treatment, whether for detoxification or maintenance purposes, are delivered as part of the Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) and in line with the latest clinical guidelines.

Two providers are evaluating the impact of the implementation of the IDTS in prison and its effect on offenders, some of whom will be aged 18 to 20 years. Reports from the evaluation will be available in 2012.

Alongside the IDTS evaluation, Professor Lord Kamlesh Patel is chairing the Prison Drug Treatment Strategy Review Group. The group is specifically considering:

> the key outcomes needed to reduce substance misuse, both in prison and on release into the community;
>
> a set of national minimum standards for drug treatment in prison;
>
> opportunities for achieving efficiency savings to invest in prison and community drug treatment services;
>
> examining the case for prioritising the treatment needs for some drug dependent groups, both in prison and on release;
>
> the commissioning models and funding streams at national, regional and local level in order to target services more effectively; and
>
> systems for improved information sharing to support better quality performance management and case management.

This is a two-year work programme running from April 2009 to March 2011.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the number of user minutes on the Lorenzo software system at each of the NHS sites at which it is installed in the most recent month for which information is available. [320916]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information necessary to derive such an estimate is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Respite Care: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the amount of funding received by Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust as a result of the additional funding for respite care announced on 10 March 2008 in each month to date; and under what budgetary heading such funding has been spent. [321604]

Phil Hope: The data are not held centrally.

£150 million is being given to primary care trusts (PCTs) within their baseline allocations to provide breaks for carers. The Department does not break down PCT revenue allocations by policies at either a national or a local level and there is no weighted capitation formula specific to carers that would allow needs to be accurately identified at the local level. It is therefore for PCTs to decide their priorities for investment locally, taking into account their local circumstances and priorities set out in the NHS Operating Framework.

JUSTICE

Blackmail

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people convicted of the offence of blackmail since 1990 were sentenced to a period of imprisonment of seven years or more. [321277]

Claire Ward: The available information is provided in the table as follows:

Custodial sentences of at least seven years for blackmail[1], 1993-2008

	Total
1990	1
1991	5
1992	6
1993	4
1994	4
1995	7
1996	10
1997	8
1998	2
1999	10
2000	5
2001	12
2002	5
2003	5
2004	4
2005	2
2006	18
2007	1
2008	4

[1] S.21 Theft Act 1968.

Notes:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

2. The data have been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. The data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Information Commissioner's Office: Complaint

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints made to the Information Commissioner's Office had not been investigated within eight months of the complaint having been made in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and what steps are being taken to reduce this number. [318381]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is the UK's independent authority established to promote access to official information and to regulate the protection of personal data.

Complaints received by the ICO are recorded and logged in a casework management system. The complaints are then allocated to a caseworker for investigation. Of a total of 22,237 complaints received in the financial year 2008-09, the ICO took more than eight months to allocate 1,552 cases for investigation. The ICO allocated a total of 20,681 complaints for investigation within eight months of receipt in 2008-09, with four cases still awaiting allocation.

A complete picture for the current financial year is not yet available. However, in quarters one to three of 2009-10 the ICO received 18,463 complaints. To date, 318 of these complaints were more than eight months old when allocated for investigation. In the first three quarters of 2009-10, 16,561 complaints were allocated within eight months of receipt, notwithstanding a 21 per cent. increase in freedom of information complaints and a 42 per cent. increase in the number of data protection complaints in comparison to the same period in the previous financial year. The remaining 1,584 requests had yet to be allocated for investigation at the end of the third quarter. This information has been provided by the ICO.

The Information Commissioner is committed to speeding up the complaint handling process in his Office. The ICO is changing its internal systems and processes to focus on closing less complex cases more quickly. Additional grant in aid over and above its baseline funding has also been made available by the Ministry of Justice to help the ICO reduce its backlog of freedom of information cases in this financial year and the previous four.

Legal Aid

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether an assessment has been made of the appropriateness of funding by legal aid of concluded MMR vaccine litigation; [321634]

(2) whether an assessment has been made of the appropriateness of funding by legal aid the research carried out on claimants and controls in connection with concluded MMR vaccine litigation; [321635]

(3) whether an assessment has been made of purported ethical approval and clinical indication for lumbar punctures funded by legal aid performed on claimants in connection with concluded MMR vaccine litigation; [321637]

(4) whether there are plans to recover legal aid money paid to Dr. Andrew Wakefield in connection with concluded MMR vaccine litigation. [321622]

Maria Eagle: The MMR vaccine litigation involved allegations that, as a consequence of a national vaccination campaign, children were very seriously injured because the vaccine in question was defective. Legal aid funding, which covered litigation services, advocacy and disbursements for experts, was granted in the early stages of the case, and was supported by the opinions of leading counsel, which took into account the expert evidence available at the time.

The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is obliged to review continually the merits of funded litigation, and to withdraw funding where a case no longer meets the legal merits test. Funding for MMR claims was therefore discontinued when they no longer met this test. Since the MMR vaccine cases concluded, the civil legal aid Funding Code guidance has been revised, and there are now more stringent criteria for funding high-cost cases, and a presumption that legal aid will not be used to fund new scientific research.

We are not aware of any assessment of the ethical approval of procedures carried out as part of the expert evidence provided for this case. This would be a matter for the General Medical Council, not the Ministry of Justice or the LSC. The LSC has no plans to recover legal aid fees paid to Dr. Andrew Wakefield in connection with expert advice in the concluded MMR litigation.

National Offender Management Services: Licences

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of the licences purchased by the National Offender Management Service from *(a)* MPLC and *(b)* Filmbank. [316316]

Mr. Straw: The showing of films by video/DVD to groups of prisoners or staff requires a licence as it constitutes public performance.

There are two licences as no one licensing body covers all the main studios.

The cost of licences in the 2008-09 financial year for the Motion Picture Licensing Company (MPLC) and Filmbank was £315,883 and £39,774 respectively. This equates to £3.60 per prisoner per year (or lp a day).

Films have been shown to prisoners for many decades.

Property: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 940W, on property: sales, how many property transactions took place where the sale price was more than *(a)* £60,000, *(b)* £125,000, *(c)* £175,000 and *(d)* £250,000 in each (i) local authority area and (ii) region since 1997. [321283]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry is able to provide information based on the total number of residential properties sold at full value[1] in the requested categories in each year since 1997. The information has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

[1] Full value = residential property transactions where the full price has been paid. The figures exclude a number of transactions including right to buy sales at a discount, properties sold by way of a gift and properties sold under a compulsory purchase or court order.

Youth Custody

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of sentences handed down to *(a)* juveniles and *(b)* young adults of each sex from (i) magistrates' courts and (ii) Crown courts were custodial sentences in (A) 2008 and (B) 2009. [321595]

Claire Ward: The requested information for 2008 is shown in the following table. Data for 2007 have also been supplied. Data for 2009 will become available once Sentencing Statistics 2009 is published in the autumn.

This information is also available in Sentencing Statistics 2008 via the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

Number and percentage of persons sentenced to immediate custody, by court type, age band and sex, 2007-08

		Magistrates court			*Crown court*		
		Immediate custody	*Total sentenced*	*Proportion (percentage)*	*Immediate custody*	*Total sentenced*	*Proportion (percentage)*
2008	*Male*						
	10 to 17	3,421	71,438	4.8	1,609	2,583	62.3
	18 to 20	5,436	101,358	5.4	7,186	13,222	54.3
	Female						
	10 to 17	368	13,479	2.7	78	215	36.3
	18 to 20	434	20,010	2.2	355	1,120	31.7
2007	*Male*						
	10 to 17	3,864	80,153	4.8	1,497	2,466	60.7
	18 to 20	6,320	107,921	5.9	7,167	12,849	55.8
	Female						
	10 to 17	340	14,494	2.3	129	274	47.1

Number and percentage of persons sentenced to immediate custody, by court type, age band and sex, 2007-08

		Magistrates court			Crown court		
		Immediate custody	Total sentenced	Proportion (percentage)	Immediate custody	Total sentenced	Proportion (percentage)
	18 to 20	472	18,507	2.6	332	999	33.2

Notes:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

2. These data have been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has received a copy of the National Audit Office's draft report on custody placements in young offenders institutions; if he will bring forward proposals to improve his Department's system for reporting costs of custody in the youth secure estate; and if he will make a statement. [321629]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice is not aware of any such report by the National Audit Office (NAO). The work of the NAO is a matter for the NAO's Comptroller and Auditor General. The Department welcomes any recommendations the NAO has to secure greater value for money and would carefully consider its response thereafter. Details on the costs of custody are published in the Youth Justice Board's annual report and accounts.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 12 March 2010

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service family accommodation properties in England and Wales were identified as awaiting disposal or demolition in each year since 2004; and how much rent was paid to Annington Homes for those properties in each of those years. [322038]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It will take more time to collate and verify the information requested. I will write to the hon. Member.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many thefts from unoccupied houses owned by his Department have been reported in each of the last 12 months. [322040]

Mr. Kevan Jones: A complete record of thefts from unoccupied houses, is not available because these are held by a number of Home Office police forces.

Electronic Warfare

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research his Department has conducted on the likely magnitude of an electromagnetic pulse weapon attack upon the UK and the consequences of such an attack. [319897]

Bill Rammell: The Ministry of Defence has undertaken electromagnetic pulse research in a number of areas. This information is being withheld for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Home Department (Mr. Hanson) on 3 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1282W.

Future Surface Combatant

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many variants of the Future Surface Combatant will be designed; and how many ships in each such variant he expects to be constructed. [321414]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 11 March 2010]:* The Future Surface Combatant programme is expected to consist of two variants. The C1, an Anti Submarine Warfare task group enabled platform and the C2 variant, a more general purpose platform. There is a separate Mine Countermeasures, Hydrographic and Patrol Capability programme, which was previously referred to as C3.

No decisions have yet been made on the number of ships to be constructed; this will be decided at the main investment decision point for each variant.

Land Mines: Detectors

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many of his Department's hand-held mine detectors were *(a)* in service and *(b)* fit for purpose in each of the last nine years; [321365]

(2) how many *(a)* Vallon VMH3CS and *(b)* Ebinger EBEX-420PB mine detectors are (i) in service and (ii) fit for purpose. [321366]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The metal detectors currently in service are Vallon, Hoodlum and Horn. There are sufficient metal detectors to meet our current operational requirements. As at 5 March 2010, there were 3,071 Vallon hand-held metal detectors in service. The number of equipments available for use will vary daily and will depend principally on how many are in the repair loop at the time. As at 5 March 2010, an estimated 2,440 Vallon were available for use. The EBEX-420PB metal detector has been withdrawn from service.

The number of hand-held metal detectors in service and available for use in previous years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when *(a)* he expects the last of the nine MRA4 aircraft on order to be delivered and *(b)* where these helicopters will be based. [321336]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Delivery of the nine Nimrod MRA4 aircraft is expected to be complete by the end of 2012. I assume that the second part of your question relates to the MRA4 and that "helicopters" is a misprint. On current planning RAF Kinloss will be the main operating base for the MRA4 aircraft.

Warships: Decommissioning

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* Royal Navy and *(b)* Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels have been sold to other countries since 1997; and what revenue accrued to his Department from each such sale. [322037]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 12 March 2010]:* Since 1997, 29 ex-Royal Navy and ex-Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels have been sold to other countries. In detail these vessels are:

Ship	*Date*	*Country*	*Gross revenue (£)*
HMS Plover HMS Peacock HMS Starling	January 1997	Philippines	7,500,000
Total financial year 1997-98			7,500,000
HMS Unseen HMS Unicorn	January 1998	Canada	227,400,000

Ship	Date	Country	Gross revenue (£)
HMS Ursula			
HMS Upholder			
Total financial year 1998-99			227,400,000
HMS Bicester	July 2000	Greece	10,000,000
HMS Berkeley	February 2001		
HMS Orkney	December 2000	Trinidad and Tobago	1,500,000
Total financial year 2000-01			11,500,000
HMS Orwell	June 2001	Guyana	1,500,000
Total financial year 2001-02			1,500,000
HMS Shetland	August 2002	Bangladesh	8,000,000
HMS Alderney			
HMS Anglesey			
HMS Lindisfarne			
HMS Guernsey			
HMS London		Romania	116,000,000
HMS Coventry			
Total financial year 2002-03			124,000,000
HMS Sheffield	April 2003	Chile	27,000,000
Total financial year 2003-04			27,000,000
HMS Norfolk	October 2005	Chile	134,000,000
HMS Grafton			
HMS Marlborough			
Total financial year 2005-06			134,000,000
HMS Sandown	September 2006	Estonia	32,000,000
HMS Inverness			
HMS Bridport			
Total financial year 2006-07			32,000,000
RFA Sir Galahad	July 2007	Brazil	5,235,000
Total financial year 2007-08			5,235,000
RFA Sir Bedivere	October 2009	Brazil	10,000,000
HMS Cottesmore	November 2009	Lithuania	
HMS Dulverton			
Total financial year 2008-09			10,000,000
Total gross revenue (1997 to 2009)			580,135,000

Note:

Revenue is shown as gross. Prior to 2001 no information is available regarding net revenue. Since 2001 total net revenue from sales was £62,645,000.

Warships: Procurement

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the first ships to be procured under the Future Surface Combatant programme to enter service. [321700]

Mr. Quentin Davies: It is departmental policy to release in-service dates only for those ships for which the main investment decision has been taken. The Future Surface Combatant programme has not yet reached this stage. However, our current planning assumption is that the first vessels will enter service early in the next decade.

CABINET OFFICE

Census: Sikhs

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent consideration has been given to including a separate category for Sikhs in the ethnic categories to be included in the 2011 Census. [321205]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply. A copy of their letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Young People

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for how long on average claimants aged between 18 and 24 years resident in each local authority area in the South East were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* each of the last 12 months and *(b)* each of the last five years. [321449]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for how long on average claimants aged between 18 and 24 years resident in each local authority area in the South East were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in (a) each of the last 12 months and (b) each of the last five years. (321449)

The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) is taken from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. The length of a claim has been defined as the time between the start of an individual's claim and the count date in each reference month. Table 1 shows the median length of live claims for persons aged 18 to 24 resident in each local authority in the South East during the last 12 months up to the latest available period in January 2010, and for January of each of the last 5 years. A copy of the table will be placed in the Library of the House.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Lord Ashcroft

Alun Michael: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether guidance was provided to members of the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee on the interpretation by that committee of the undertaking given by Lord Ashcroft in 2000. [320804]

Tom Levitt: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will place in the Library a copy of the memorandum referred to in the statement by Lord Ashcroft of 1 March 2010 on official confirmation from the Government on the interpretation of the first undertaking he made to the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee. [320917]

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) whether ministerial approval was given for the definition of long-term resident to be used by the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee for the purposes of its consideration of Lord Ashcroft's nomination for a peerage; [321311]

(2) whether guidance was sought from HM Revenue and Customs on the interpretation of the undertaking given by Lord Ashcroft to the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee in respect of the definition of his status as a long-term resident of the UK. [321384]

Tessa Jowell: The Cabinet Office will be responding to a request by the Public Administration Select Committee that it should supply a brief written statement describing the nature of the dialogue referred to by Lord Ashcroft in his statement of 1 March 2010. The date of that hearing is to be confirmed. The matters raised by the hon. Members will be dealt with in that response.

Political Honours Scrutiny Committee

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 3W, on the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee, when the criteria will be determined for *(a)* the destruction and *(b)* the preservation of records of the Committee. [320919]

Angela E. Smith: Papers relating to the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee will be handled in accordance with the requirements of the Public Records Acts.

Unemployment

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she made of the number and proportion of people of working age who were classified as underemployed in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* England and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each year since 1980. [322151]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply. A copy of their letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evidence his Department has on the proportion of antisocial behaviour that is alcohol-related. [321147]

Mr. Alan Campbell: According to the 2008-09 British Crime Survey in 47 per cent. of violent incidents the victims believed the offender was under the influence of alcohol.

The data can be found at the following weblink:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1109vol1.pdf

Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on the review process for the EU Animal Experimentation Directive; what assessment he has made of the implications of that review for the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986; and if he will make a statement. [320523]

Meg Hillier: In November 2008 the European Commission published its proposal for a new directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes to replace EU Directive 86/609/EEC. The European Parliament adopted its first reading report on the Commission's proposal in May 2009. The Council of Ministers has not yet adopted an agreed position. However, discussions between the Swedish presidency, the Commission and the European Parliament completed in December 2009 made significant progress towards agreement of a common compromise text.

The only provisions remaining to be agreed relate to the arrangements for delegated and implementing acts introduced by articles 290 and 291 of the Lisbon Treaty, the operational details of which are still being negotiated.

Once these provisions are agreed, the way should then be clear for the new Directive to be adopted. Our current expectation is that this will be in the first half of 2010 and that the final implementation date for the measures set out in the new directive, after transposition into UK law, will be 1 January 2013.

We believe the compromise text provides a sound basis for the future regulation of animal research in Europe. The text is more flexible and less prescriptive than the Commission's initial proposal and, overall, provides a regulatory framework which, we believe is balanced and will allow the United Kingdom to maintain high standards of welfare and animal protection after transposition and implementation without the imposition of unnecessary bureaucracy.

Pathways to Work: Greater Manchester

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in *(a)* the City of Manchester and *(b)* Manchester Central constituency have (i) started Pathways to Work and (ii) made recorded job starts under Pathways to Work in each year since the inception of the programme. [321066]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 8 March 2010]:* I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not published and could be made available only at disproportionate cost.

Shops: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent attacks against shopkeepers were reported in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* West Yorkshire in the last 10 years. [321282]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information on the profession of victims of violent offences is not collected centrally.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission: Manpower

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many employees the Audit Commission had in each year since 1997. [322156]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 12 March 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission's full time equivalent (FTE) staffing levels at each year end since 1997 were:

	FTE
1996-97	1,280
7 months to October 1997	1,295
1997-98	1,403
1998-99	1,600
1999-2000	1,885
2000-01	2,271
2001-02	2,437
17 months to March 2004	2,356
2004-05	2,307
2005-06	2,023
2006-07	2,005
2007-08	1,964
2008-09	1,971

Note:

The Commission changed its financial year end in 1997 from March to October therefore there are two sets of accounts for that year. Our financial year end was changed again in 2004, so the period 2002-04 is for 17 months, from November 2002 to March 2004.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Council Housing: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when he plans to publish the responses to the Reform of Council Housing Finance consultation; [321909]

(2) how many responses from *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* other bodies to the Reform of Council Housing Finance consultation were received by his Department; [321910]

(3) when he plans to announce his Department's proposals for replacement of the council housing finance system. [321911]

John Healey: I intend to make a further announcement and publish a summary of responses to the consultation shortly.

Fire Services: Manpower

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire service personnel there were per 100,000 population in *(a)* Chesterfield, *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* England in each year since 2006. [321596]

Mr. Malik *[holding answer 11 March 2010]:* Numbers of fire and rescue service personnel are held centrally only by fire authority, thus the data in the table are for Derbyshire and England only.

Number of fire and rescue service personnel per 100,000 population

	Total fire and rescue service personnel		*Fire and rescue service personnel per 100,000 population*	
As at 31 March each year	*Derbyshire*	*England*	*Derbyshire*	*England*
2006	983	54,297	99.3	107.0
2007	984	55,036	98.8	107.7
2008	1,021	55,537	101.9	108.0
2009[1]	1,017	55,540	101.5	108.0

[1] 2009 population estimates not yet available. Mid-year 2008 population used.

Sources:

1. Annual returns from Fire and Rescue Services to Communities and Local Government

2. Mid-year population estimates, Office for National Statistics

Housing Revenue Accounts

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether his further proposals on reform of the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system will include recommendations in respect of the *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital elements; [321710]

(2) whether he expects his further proposals for reform of the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system to increase the total housing debt of local authorities; [321711]

(3) whether his further proposals on reform of the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system will enable local authorities to *(a)* borrow against existing housing stock and *(b)* develop a long-term sustainable business plan. [321712]

John Healey: I intend to make an announcement and publish a summary of responses to the consultation shortly.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many *(a)* emails her Office has responded to and *(b)* telephone calls her Office has answered from members of the public since 2008. [321459]

Tessa Jowell: E-mails and telephone calls regarding the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games are logged by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). 533 e-mails were responded to and 50 telephone calls were received in the period 1 January 2008 to 9 March 2010.

Figures for my private office are not held.

Departmental Responsibilities

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her official engagements are in March 2010. [321458]

Tessa Jowell: I have many engagements in connection with my official duties.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many contracts the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment had with *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* Government departments and *(c)* non-departmental public bodies in each of the last three years. [321554]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held by my Department and relates to matters that are the responsibility of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE).

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of CABE to write direct to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding, other than in grant in aid, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment received from public bodies in each of the last three years. [321562]

Mr. Bradshaw: The amount of funding received by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment from public bodies apart from grant in aid in each of the last three financial years is set out in the table.

Financial year	*Amount received from public bodies*[1] *(£)*
2006-07	7,740,548
2007-08	8,744,777
2008-09	9,478,904

[1] Excluding grant in aid.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers were employed by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment in each of the last three years; and how many were employed at the latest date for which figures are available. [321587]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) press and communications officers that were employed by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment in each of the last three years and at the current time are set out in the table:

	Press officers[1]	*Communications officers*[1]
2006-07	2	3.5
2007-08	2	3.5
2008-09	2	2.2
Current	2	3.5

[1] FTE.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment *(a)* has employed in each of the last three years and *(b)* employed on the latest date for which figures are available. [321588]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of full-time equivalent staff (FTE) employed by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) in each of the last three financial years and at the current time is set out in the following table.

	Staff employed by CABE (FTE)
2006-07	102
2007-08	120
2008-09	124
Current	120

Figures provided include all permanent, fixed term and temporary staff who are paid as employees through CABE's payroll.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department provided in grant in aid to the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment in each of the last three years. [321611]

Mr. Bradshaw: The grant in aid from this Department to the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) in the last three full financial years is in the table.

	CABE grant in aid (£000)
2006-07	3,690
2007-08	4,690
2008-09	[1]19,790

[1] The increase reflects £15 million for Sea Change.

Source:

DCMS Annual Reports and Accounts 2009

Cricket: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many first-class cricket ground redevelopment plans are dependent on funding from the England and Wales Cricket Board. [322027]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Funding for first class cricket ground redevelopment plans is a matter for the England and Wales Cricket Board. Therefore, I suggest the hon. Member contacts them directly.

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Scotland which have (i) one digital radio and (ii) two or more digital radios. [321653]

Mr. Bradshaw: Research by Radio Joint Audience Research Limited (RAJAR) published in February 2010 indicates that 33.4 per cent. of adults in the UK own a DAB set at home. 10.5 million DAB sets had been sold by the end of 2009, and some of these are thought to be repeat purchases: research by Digital Radio UK suggests that 66 per cent. of DAB set owners possess more than one set. Separate figures for Scotland are not published.

Television

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Scotland which have (i) one television set and (ii) two or more television sets; and what recent estimate he has made of the number of such households which have (A) one television set and (B) two or more television sets tuned to receive digital services. [321651]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally by the Department.

Accordingly, I have asked Ofcom's chief executive to consider the question raised by the hon. Member for Gordon and to write to him direct.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Winter Sports

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether UK Sport plans to undertaken a performance review of all winter sports following the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics; and if he will make a statement. [321917]

Mr. Sutcliffe: UK Sport has advised that they conduct investment reviews with each sport after both winter and summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Through this process UK Sport can analyse Games results, apply its 'No compromise' Investment Principles and model, and issue planning figures to sports that fall within the scope for potential investment over the Sochi, Russia 2010-14 cycle.

UK Sport Board has approved a refined set of Investment Principles which are positioned to embrace both summer and winter Olympic and Paralympic sports. This will ensure consistency of approach across all sports funded through the World Class Performance Programme.

Following its winter sport reviews UK Sport anticipates being able to make 2010-14 funding decisions in summer 2010.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* Exchequer and *(b)* Lottery funding has been allocated to winter sports by (i) UK Sport and (ii) Sport England in each year since the Turin 2006 Winter Olympics. [321918]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The table, provided by UK Sport, outlines their Exchequer funding and Lottery funding for winter sports since the 2006 Turin Winter Olympics. These funds are provided as part of UK Sport's World Class Performance Programme, and the awards were allocated for the four year Olympic cycle (reviewed after two years), rather than on a year by year basis.

These figures are the allocated amounts for programme and Athlete Personal Awards (APA) as agreed at board level, and are published on the UK Sport website:

http://www.uksport.gov.uk/

UK Sport

(£)

	Programme-Exchequer	*Programme-Lottery*	*APA-Lottery*
Sport (Olympic)			
Bob Skeleton	124,000	1,595,000	391,000
Bobsleigh	360,000		136,000
Curling		720,000	416,000
Figure Skating	180,000	180,000	136,000
Short Track Speed Skating	500,000	260,000	204,000
Skiing	270,000	—	102,000
Snowboarding	180,000	—	68,000
Totals	1,614,000	2,755,000	1,453,000
Sport (Paralympic)			
Disability Skiing	205,000	—	—
Wheelchair Curling	445,000	—	—
Totals	650,000	—	—

In addition to the funding outlined in the table, as part of the contingency arrangements following Snowsport GB going into administration, UK Sport agreed to provide approximately £21,500 to the British Olympic Association. This funding was ring-fenced for the support of UK Sport's two currently funded elite athletes and their immediate technical and coaching teams to participate in the Vancouver Winter Olympics.

Allied to UK Sport's funding for winter sports, the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS) has provided £4 million in the last four years, of which over £700,000 has been invested in promising skiers and snowboarders.

The following table, provided by Sport England, outlines their Exchequer funding and Lottery funding for winter sports since the 2006 Turin Winter Olympics, and is based on awards data held from 1 April 2006 to 31 December 2009.

Sport England

(£)

Sport	*Programme-Exchequer*	*Programme-Lottery*
Bobsleigh		12,000
Ice Hockey	311,176	164,800
Ice Skating	48,000	107,349
Alpine skiing and snowboarding[1]	152,613	832,387
Curling		651
Skiing	70,000	7,782
Total	581,789	1,124,969

[1] Alpine skiing and snowboarding awards are based on funding provided between 2009 and 2013.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Morocco: International Assistance

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the compatibility of the decision of the Moroccan Government to expel volunteer workers, including citizens of EU member states, on charges of proselytizing members of the Kafala community and orphaned children through their work at the Village of Hope/Village de l'Esperance at Ain Leuh with the conditions relating to human rights and freedom of religion in agreements between the EU and the Kingdom of Morocco; and if he will make a statement. [322026]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our officials in London met with the Moroccan chargé d'affaires on 10 March to express the UK's concerns. Our officials in Rabat have asked the Moroccan authorities for a full briefing on the matter.

Morocco has a good record on freedom of worship. Moroccan officials tell us that they remain committed to ensuring freedom of worship and religious tolerance; however proselytising remains illegal in Morocco.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not held specific discussions on this point with his EU counterparts.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carer's Allowance

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will bring forward proposals to increase the level of the carer's allowance. [320287]

Jonathan Shaw: The level of carer's allowance is reviewed annually and up-rated in April, in line with the September Retail Prices Index. This year, however, the September Retail Prices Index was negative so, as announced in the uprating statement, to help carers during the early stages of economic recovery, we are proposing bringing forward a 1.5 per cent. increase. This means that the weekly rate of carer's allowance will be increased from £53.10 to £53.90 in April 2010. The rate will be increased again in 2011 to make up the difference with the Retail Prices Index for September 2010, thus preserving the real terms increase in future years.

The carer's allowance weekly earnings limit is being increased from £95 to £100 from 12 April 2010.

Carers' Benefits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much of the £38 million for Jobcentre Plus referred to in the 2008 National Carers Strategy intended to help carers to move into work has been spent by Jobcentre Plus to date; on what projects and programmes it has been spent; and whether the whole amount is ring-fenced for employment support for carers. [320935]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 5 March 2010]:* Work Focused Support for Carers was introduced in December 2009 and provides one to one adviser support, referral to appropriate training opportunities and financial help for carers not eligible for other programmes, aged 18 or over and not in full-time work. We estimate that up to 4,000 people a year will take part.

Jobcentre Plus has up to £38 million available for the 2008 National Carers Strategy. The funding is all for use on providing support to carer's and is available to:

introduce a network of care partnership managers,

provide training for care partnership managers and Jobcentre Plus advisers

introduce a job search tool to identify jobs that offer flexible working, and

fund replacement care from December 2009 for carers participating in approved training.

As at February 2010, Jobcentre Plus have invested £2 million to fund the recruitment and salaries of care partnership managers in each Jobcentre Plus district and the training of Jobcentre Plus advisers, nationally. The £2 million invested to the end of February 2010 is on budget and to schedule.

Of the funding set aside for replacement care from December 2009, it is too early to report expenditure at this stage.

Additionally, many carers already have access to separately funded employment programmes because of their other circumstances, for example, lone parents or partners of people claiming benefit.

Children: Maintenance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* value and *(b)* percentage of payments to the Child Support Agency were made by credit card in each of the last three years. [318743]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what (a) value and (b) percentage of payments to the Child Support Agency were made by credit card in each of the last three years. [318743]

The value and percentage of payments to the Child Support Agency made only by credit card is not available.

I am sorry on this occasion I cannot be more helpful.

Community Development: Expenditure

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding has been granted under the Deprived Area Fund in each *(a)* local authority and *(b)* lower layer super output area in each year since 2000. [318264]

Angela Eagle: The Deprived Areas Fund (DAF) was created in 2006. Allocations are calculated on the basis of the relative levels of worklessness at ward level.

For the available information on the allocations for 2006-07 and 2007-08, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her on 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 783-5W.

From April 2008 onwards the DAF in England has been pooled with resources from Communities and Local Government to form the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF).

It is not possible to provide a further breakdown of DAF at either local authority or lower super output area level as the allocation of the fund is not defined by such boundaries.

Council Tax Benefits and Housing Benefit: Tyne and Wear

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit recipients there were in (i) the City of Newcastle, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) North Tyneside and (iv) Gateshead in each quarter between February 2007 and February 2010. [321119]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the tables

Housing benefit recipients in Tyneside local authorities; quarterly February 2007 to August 2007

	2007		
	February	*May*	*August*
Newcastle upon Tyne	28,370	27,910	28,180
South Tyneside	17,520	16,460	16,880
North Tyneside	16,570	16,450	16,330
Gateshead	20,070	20,010	19,780

Council tax benefit recipients in Tyneside local authorities; quarterly February 2007 to August 2007

	2007		
	February	*May*	*August*
Newcastle upon Tyne	32,350	32,140	32,110
South Tyneside	2[illegible],830	20,560	21,180
North Tyneside	21,590	21,490	21,360
Gateshead	25,580	25,700	25,520

Notes
1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
5. Council tax benefit figures exclude any single adult rebate cases.
6. Figures are at the second Thursday in each month provided.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. taken in February 2007 - August 2007

Housing benefit recipients in Tyneside local authorities; quarterly November 2008 to November 2009

	2008	2009			
	November	*February*	*May*	*August*	*November*
Newcastle upon Tyne	28,820	29,580	29,990	30,460	30,370
South Tyneside	17,490	18,020	18,130	18,350	18,660
North Tyneside	16,720	17,230	17,350	17,620	17,720
Gateshead	19,980	20,260	20,710	21,010	21,180

Council tax benefit recipients in Tyneside local authorities; quarterly November 2008 to November 2009

	2008	2009			
	November	*February*	*May*	*August*	*November*
Newcastle upon Tyne	32,280	33,230	33,690	34,270	34,240
South Tyneside	21,630	22,210	22,330	22,520	22,810
North Tyneside	21,210	22,080	22,240	22,520	22,630
Gateshead	25,230	25,580	25,970	26,260	26,510

Notes:
1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
5. Council tax benefit figures exclude any single adult rebate cases.
6. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. These data are available monthly from November 2008 and November 2009 is the most recent available.
7. Data from SHBE incorporates the local authority changes from 1 April 2009.
8. Figures are at the second Thursday in each month provided.

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) for October 2009 and November 2008 taken from Table 8 and Table 14 of publication at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/HBCTB1908209.xls

Departmental Carbon Emissions

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* associated non-departmental public bodies plan to sign up to the 10:10 campaign for cutting carbon usage in 2010; and if she will publish the (i) criteria and (ii) research upon which such a decision will be taken. [312113]

Jonathan Shaw: My Department, its agencies and associated non-departmental public bodies have not signed up to the 10:10 campaign to cut carbon emissions in 2010, but are supportive of the aims of the campaign.

My Department has delivered significant reductions in carbon emissions from our buildings and road travel, by 14 per cent. and 30 per cent. respectively over the last two years. In 2007-08 an estates emissions reduction of 10.8 per cent. was achieved. While this proves that such a reduction is possible, my Department continues to bear a significantly increased work load to support those impacted by the recession. While we remain committed to the achievement of the carbon reductions targets from Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (our progress is detailed in the Sustainable Development in Government report), it is the opinion of my officials that it would be unrealistic for the Department to commit to a further 10 per cent. reduction in a single year from an already low baseline and with an expanding business.

During December my Department has achieved the Carbon Trust Standard, and we remain committed to actively reducing our carbon emissions. We will exploit, where possible, low carbon technologies and we will be shortly relaunching our energy efficiency campaign across our estate.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the monetary value was of the subsidy paid by her Department in respect of food and drink on sale to staff of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies at official premises in each of the last five years. [320502]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department provides an annual subsidy for various catering outlets that sell food and drink to staff. This subsidy allows outlets to remain viable and varies depending on a number of factors, such as location and canteen usage. There are currently 129 sites with catering outlets, housing around 39,000 staff.

The total value of the subsidy paid by the department for each of the five years is in the following table:

	£ million
2004-05	4.24
2005-06	4.02
2006-07	3.90
2007-08	3.72
2008-09	3.47

Departmental Manpower

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many external contractors were employed by her Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost to the public purse; [313764]

(2) for how long on average staff on interim contracts are employed by her Department; [313765]

(3) how many people in her Department are employed on interim contracts; and at what cost to the public purse. [313766]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 28 January 2010]*: Contractors and interims are individuals engaged by the Department to provide specific skills or support that is not available in-house or within the required time frame.

The number of contractors/interims working in December 2009 within DWP on that basis was 355. This should be seen in the context of a Department employing well over 100,000 staff. Such contractors are only engaged with the prior approval of an appropriate senior civil servant and their agreement can only be extended beyond 12 months with the approval of the permanent secretary.

During the period from January to December 2009 (inclusive) the associated spend on such contractors was approximately £43 million.

The average tenure of an interim appointment within DWP is currently 9.7 months.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the executive agencies for which she is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in (i) her Department and (ii) the executive agencies is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff. [317980]

Jonathan Shaw: We are aware that not all staff declare their disability for departmental records, and the true representation of disabled people across the Department may be higher than the figures shown. For example, the 2009 People survey (which is completed anonymously), showed that 10.5 per cent. of respondents considered themselves to have a long standing health condition or disability.

Due to the self-reporting nature of disability and the process by which part time salaries are up-rated in order that they are comparable to full-time staff salaries, care should be exercised when drawing conclusions based on these statistics. The following table shows the numbers and proportion of disabled and non disabled staff for DWP and its executive agencies.

	Disabled	*Non Disabled*	*Not declared or non-response*	*Disabled as a percentage of known disability status*
DWP Corporate Services	310	6,740	710	4.3
DWP Shared Services	130	3,900	650	3.2
Pension and Disability Carers Service	670	14,510	1,550	4.4
Job Centre Plus	4,190	62,930	10,360	6.2

Table 2: Median Earnings of disabled and non-disabled staff, broken down by full-time and part-time working patterns for each business within DWP and its executive agencies

	Full-time		*Part-time*	
	Non disabled	*Disabled*	*Non disabled*	*Disabled*
DWP Corporate Services	£28,900	£27,370	£25,730	£23,990
DWP Shared Services	£17,600	£17,600	£17,600	£17,600
Pension and Disability Carers Service	£17,600	£17,600	£17,600	£17,600
Jobcentre Plus	£20,430	£22,310	£19,480	£20,170

The statistics are drawn from Departmental records and have been collected by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) from the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES). The latest published statistics are for 31 March 2009.

Directgov: Contracts

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on *(a)* contractors and *(b)* strategic advisers under the directgov programme in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09; and what the estimated expenditure on each is in 2009-10. [320717]

Angela Eagle: The information is as follows:

(a) Directgov spent the following on contractors:

(i) 2007-08 £3.0 million

(ii) 2008-09 £7.4 million

The estimated spend on contractors in 2009-10 is £8.2 million.

It should be noted that the increase from 2007-08 to 2008-09 was to deliver programmes such as website convergence and cross-government service transformation. The percentage of Directgov's budget spent on contractors remained the same.

Contractors are required to fill short-term posts and posts where it has not been possible to recruit permanent staff due to their specialist nature.

(b) There were no strategic adviser costs incurred in 2007-08 or 2008-09.

The strategic adviser costs for 2009-10 are included within the spend shown for that year. This is a short-term post and providing the information separately would allow the individual's day rate to be calculated which is both commercially sensitive and considered to be personally identifiable data.

Contractor posts are tendered to ensure Directgov obtains high quality candidates and achieve value for money. This is underpinned by benchmarking the rates and charges to ensure they are within benchmark guidelines. Directgov also negotiates day rates and margins in line with, if not better than, than standard government contract rates.

Directgov is working across Departments to enable transformation of digital public service delivery and has the potential to enable Government to make substantial savings in shifting from traditional to digital channels and for those channels to be used.

Disabled People

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 86WS, on Right to Control (Trailblazer sites) how many bids her Department received to become Trailblazer sites; and what the name was of each bidder. [320934]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department received a strong field of bids from 43 local authorities wishing to take part in the Right to Control Trailblazers. Taking into account joint bids, this amounted to bids from 36 potential Trailblazer areas.

The Trailblazers that were selected represent a good mix in terms of demography, geography and different types of local authorities (two-tier authorities, unitary authorities, metropolitan and London boroughs).

The local authorities that submitted a bid were:

Joint bids

- Coventry and Warwickshire
- Barnsley and Sheffield[1]
- Greater Manchester[1] this includes Manchester City, Bury, Trafford, Stockport, and Oldham
- Islington and Westminster

Single bids

- Barnet[1]
- Bexley
- Bournemouth
- Blackpool
- Bradford
- Calderdale
- Central Bedfordshire
- Darlington
- Derbyshire
- Durham
- Enfield
- Essex[1]
- Hampshire
- Kent
- Kirklees
- Lambeth
- Leicester[1]
- Newham[1]
- Norfolk
- Northamptonshire
- Nottinghamshire
- Peterborough
- Portsmouth
- Redbridge
- Redcar and Cleveland[1]
- Rotherham
- St. Helens
- Staffordshire
- Stockton
- Surrey[1]
- Wakefield
- Worcestershire

[1] Selected Trailblazers.

Economic Situation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for which policies implemented as part of the Government's response to the recession her Department is responsible; when each such policy was determined; what timetable has been set for the implementation of each such policy; and what funding under each budget heading has been allocated to each such policy. [309340]

Angela Eagle: The Government have made available up to £5 billion additional discretionary spending to support people through the course of the recession. This has been used in a variety of ways—and the bulk of this has been for this Department to lead on. Of this £5 billion we expect to spend £2.1 billion in 2009-10 and £2.9 billion in 2010-11.

As a result of the investment that the Government have made, claimant unemployment was over 450,000 lower at the end of 2009 than was expected at the time of the Budget 2009. This has also allowed us to use this funding flexibly to ensure it can be directed to where it can support people in the greatest need. To maintain such flexibility, we have not ring-fenced allocations to each element.

The following DWP programmes are funded from this budget:

Increasing resources available to Jobcentre Plus, employment programmes and local authorities

We announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report, and in the Budget 2009, that we would be providing extra funding to Jobcentre Plus to effectively handle the higher volume of customers through the recession. That funding was provided immediately and Jobcentre Plus has increased staffing levels by 16,000. The funding also allowed increase in programme budgets to core programmes including the new deals and the flexible new deal. Benefit exit rates have been maintained and over 330,000 people left JSA in January alone.

Additional support before redundancy

In November 2008, we quadrupled the funding to deliver the Jobcentre Plus Rapid Response Service which offers support to employers and workers who are facing redundancy. Since the service was expanded, more than 4,000 employers have taken up this support.

Additional day one support for all

From the start of a new jobseeker's allowance claim, customers can access improved help from Jobcentre Plus to get them back to work quickly. This support can include one-to-one adviser support, coaching and access to Local Employment Partnership vacancies.

In April 2009, we introduced new specialist help for professionals and executives, delivered by external recruitment agencies, to help them with jobsearch techniques and give them advice specific to their needs and experience. In our December White Paper "Building Britain's Recovery", we announced our intention to extend this support further by offering professionals and executives follow-up sessions.

Six month offer for all

Every jobseeker's allowance customer who remains unemployed for six months or more now have access to a substantially improved range of services including access to recruitment subsidies vouchers, work-focused training and volunteering placements and help to become self employed through the six month offer.

The six month offer was introduced in April 2009 and provides opportunities for up to 230,000 people. Between April 2009 to October 2009, 39,420 people has taken up the support offered through the six month offer.

Furthermore, access to self employment support and the financial credit is now available to all jobseekers after three months.

Young Persons Guarantee and the Future Jobs Fund

The Young Persons Guarantee launched on 25 January 2010 guarantees all young jobseekers aged 18-24 a job, training or work experience from six months unemployment. From April 2010 young people will be required to take up one of the options on offer if they are still unemployed after 10 months. The Future Jobs Fund is a key element of the guarantee, where local authorities, partnerships and others (such as third sector or social enterprises) are able to bid to create jobs through the fund.

The first FJF jobs began in October 2009, and to date Government have agreed to fund up to 110,000 FJF jobs; around 65 per cent. of the 170,000 jobs the fund is targeted to fund.

The YPG is also supported by over 400,000 Government funded training, internship, work experience and job opportunities. This will include a target of 16,000 apprenticeship places through the FJF.

Graduates are also eligible for a new graduate guarantee, where any new graduate still unemployed after six months is guaranteed access to an internship, training or help to become self-employed.

Backing Young Britain

The BYB campaign was launched in July 2009. This national campaign delivers a variety of measures to help young people aged 16-24 into work, or move closer to the labour market. As well as encouraging business to support young people by offering jobs, apprenticeships and work experience places, it will create 10,000 mentoring places, 5,000 short term work experience placements and 20,000 longer term non-graduate internships, as well as supporting the graduate internships already announced. Places are available now.

870 organisations have signed up to BYB to date (at 8 March 2010), with the number growing all the time.

Additional support for older workers

In the "Building Britain's Recovery" White Paper we committed to provide additional back to work support to people aged 50 and over. This support includes more time with a personal adviser, access to specialist back to work support and giving people early access to the six month offer.

These new measures will be delivered from spring 2010.

Help for homeowners

Improvements to the help provided to homeowners through the Support for Mortgage Interest scheme were introduced in January 2009 for new working age claims, which:

shortened the waiting period to 13 weeks

increased capital limit to £200,000,

introduced 2 year time limit for new JSA claims

froze the standard interest rate used to calculate Support for Mortgage Interest at 6.08 per cent. for all customers (including pensioners), until the end of June 2010 benefiting around 220,000 homeowners.

Once the standard interest rate freeze ends, the Government intend to move towards a fairer, more affordable approach, that more closely reflects mortgage interest rates.

These changes demonstrate very clearly the Government's commitment to provide additional support to those facing financial difficulties and help protect them against repossessions and will be reviewed once the housing market conditions improve.

Employment Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many Jobcentre Plus offices have used *(a)* extended postal signing, *(b)* telephone jobsearch reviews, *(c)* suspension of signing, *(d)* 13-week interviews by telephone and *(e)* 13-week group sessions in each month since flexible interventions were first used; and how many Jobcentre Plus customers were the subject of each such practice; [309220]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of Jobcentre Plus offices that have used flexible interventions in each month since they were first used; and how many customers have been the subject of such interventions. [309221]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how many Jobcentre Plus offices have used (a) extended postal signing, (b) telephone jobsearch reviews, (c) suspension of signing, (d) 13-week interviews by telephone and (e) 13-week group sessions in each month since flexible interventions were first used; and how many Jobcentre Plus customers were the subject of each such practice; and what estimate she has made of the number of Jobcentre Plus offices that have used flexible interventions in each month since they were first used; and how many customers have been the subject of such interventions. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Flexible interventions were introduced at a time of rapidly increasing demand on our services and before we had the opportunity to increase our staffing levels to meet those demands. We have subsequently recruited additional staff which in turn has allowed us to reduce the number of flexible interventions deployed. In some circumstances, we have decided to deploy our flexibilities into our core business as part of our improved delivery model, in order to further improve customer service. During the economic downturn, despite these increased demands, Jobcentre Plus maintained and improved performance and is meeting all of its key performance targets.

A total of 19 flexible interventions were approved. The number of Jobcentre Plus offices that have deployed the specific flexible interventions you requested information on are detailed in the table below. However, management information on the number of customers who have been the subject of these interventions is not collected.

	Extended postal signing	*Telephone jobsearch reviews*	*Suspension of signing*	*13 week interviews by telephone*	*13 week group sessions*
2009					
April	4	0	1	34	19
May	1	2	0	55	69
June	0	0	0	61	76
July	0	0	0	8	82
August	0	0	0	2	83
September	0	0	1	1	84
October	0	0	0	4	75
November	0	2	0	1	57
December	0	0	0	0	56
2010					
January	0	0	0	0	55

Source: Jobcentre Plus Management Information.

The number of Jobcentre Plus offices that have deployed one or more of the approved flexible interventions are detailed in the following table. Management information on the number of customers who have been subject to these interventions is not collected.

	Number of Jobcentre Plus offices that have used flexible interventions
2009	
April	557
May	470
June	570
July	628
August	627
September	636
October	657
November	687
December	689
2010	
January	691

Source: Jobcentre Plus Management Information.

By introducing these flexibilities our level of customer service was not adversely affected whilst customer volumes were rising. For example the suspension of signing in two offices did not lead to a delay in benefits being paid.

I hope this information is helpful.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Work Choice prime contractor will ensure that participants with learning difficulties are not adversely affected by the transition to new employment officers. [320769]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 5 March 2010]:* Work Choice will contribute to an increased level of employment for disabled people, particularly (but not exclusively) for customers with learning disabilities and mental health conditions. In this respect, the new programme will deliver against the objectives of Public Service Agreement 16: Socially Excluded Adults.

The Department has worked extensively with a range of stakeholders, including Equality 2025, Cabinet Office (including the Public Service Agreement 16 Working Group) and the Department of Health to provide a range of support to understand and meet the complex needs of people with learning difficulties.

The Department has produced a range of support products, including easy read versions, to assist WORKSTEP providers in communicating the changes to their customers. These products have been designed for support advisers to use as a focus during face to face discussions with individual customers.

As the transition period progresses, further staged products will be introduced via providers to ensure customers are fully supported in their journey from WORKSTEP to Work Choice.

The Department worked extensively with bidding organisations in the early stages of the competition to ensure they understood the Public Service Agreement 16 commitment, integral to the Work Choice design, to support adults most at risk of social exclusion—in particular those with mental health and learning disabilities.

The Department is continuing to work closely with bidding organisations to ensure those with learning difficulties receive appropriate communication materials and the support they need during the transition period.

During the transition period, Work Choice providers will work alongside existing WORKSTEP providers and the Department to ensure a smooth and seamless transition for participants.

Work Choice providers will contact each customer at the earliest opportunity to introduce themselves and further explain the changes to the programme. These discussions will be tailored to best suit customers' needs and may, for example, entail several discussions with the support of others, where this is appropriate.

In developing the service requirement for the new Work Choice programme, the Project engaged with Disability Employment Advisory Committee, Equality 2025, Cabinet Office (who have PSA16 responsibility), a range of local authorities and a range of local authority representatives. We continue to work closely with all these organisations on implementation issues, through our Implementation Working Group.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the average cost to *(a)* private sector providers and *(b)* voluntary sector providers of supporting people on (i) Pathways to Work, (ii) Workstep, (iii) New Deal for Disabled People, into (A) work and (B) sustained work defined as 26 weeks, in respect of clients with (1) mental health conditions, (2) musculoskeletal diseases and (3) visual impairment. [320816]

Jonathan Shaw: As part of the tender evaluation process we ask potential prime contractors to put forward an overall price for the service they are offering. Tenders are evaluated against a combination of quality and price criteria. We do not make any estimate of providers' average costs. The onus is on providers to submit costs that fully cover the cost of their service.

Employment Schemes: Young People

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1028-29W, on employment schemes: young people, in which *(a)* Jobcentre Plus districts, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* constituencies the young person's guarantee was not fully available on or after 25 January 2010. [321468]

Jim Knight: The Young Person's Guarantee has been fully available in *(a)* Jobcentre Plus districts, *(b)* all local authorities and *(c)* all constituencies, since 25 January 2010.

Employment: Elderly People

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged over 60 years and actively seeking work found employment in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what proportion of the number of those actively seeking work this represented. [308010]

Jim Knight: The information is in the table.

Number of people age 60 and over who have found work in the last 12 months and as a proportion of total jobseeker's allowance claimants age 60 and over

	Found work	*Increases work to 16+ hours/ week*	*Total*	*Claimant count*	*Proportion (Percentage)*
2008					
December	950	20	970	12,990	7.5
2009					
January	610	25	635	15,925	4.0
February	1,445	45	1,490	18,195	8.2
March	1,410	40	1,450	19,300	7.5
April	1,495	35	1,530	20,170	7.6
May	1,765	50	1,815	20,240	9.0
June	1,535	40	1,575	19,670	8.0
July	1,525	35	1,560	19,300	8.1
August	1,735	25	1,760	19,020	9.3
September	1,495	35	1,530	18,230	8.4
October	1,450	15	1,465	17,925	8.2
November	1,800	40	1,840	17,780	10.3

Notes:

1. Data is rounded to the nearest five; and percentages to one decimal place. Claimant count information is published on the Nomis website at: www.nomisweb.co.uk

2. The percentage of people leaving with an unknown destination recorded has increased over the last 10 years. This is because the completion levels of the JSA40 (forms filled in by people leaving jobseeker's allowance) have decreased over this period. Many of these "unknown" leavers will have moved into employment or other benefits. *Source:* Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (computer held cases only).

Older workers who fail to get back into employment and become long term unemployed face a significant risk of not being in a position to take advantage of the upturn. In response, the Government have already made available £0.5 billion additional support to help prevent people out of work from becoming long-term unemployed. In addition to rolling out Flexible New Deal, which is providing support tailored to meet the individual needs of jobseekers of all ages, we have doubled the resources available to help people facing redundancy, have introduced a financial incentive for employers who recruit people out of work for six months or more, and have introduced extra funding for training places.

The measures in the new Employment White Paper, "Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving Full Employment" (Cm 7751), will strengthen specific areas where we know there is a case for dong something extra for people over 50. These measures, which will be delivered from spring 2010, include:

Additional time and training for Jobcentre Plus Advisers;

New specialist back to work support for the over 50s;

Widening access for over 50s to work trials;

Enabling people over 50 with significant barriers to employment to get early access to the Six Month Offer; and

A new National Guidance Initiative to encourage and help employers to adopt flexible approaches to work and retirement.

Future Jobs Fund

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of the 95,000 jobs announced through the Future Jobs Fund have been granted funding. [304590]

Angela Eagle: Overall, the Future Jobs Fund is expected to create 170,000 jobs. To date, 110,000 have been agreed, and of those, 73,000 have been granted funding. We are currently working with the remaining successful bidders to agree start dates and delivery plans, and to check European state aid legislation compliance ahead of awarding funding.

During the time between announcement and funding, the successful bidders also begin to prepare for their new workers.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which local authorities are participating in the Future Jobs Fund; and which have plans to do so. [318533]

Jim Knight: This information is available only where the local authority is the lead bidder. A list of local authority lead bidders is as follows. Future Jobs Fund activity is happening throughout the country, creating up to 110,000 jobs so far.

We are engaged in discussions with a number of local authorities about further bids. These discussions are confidential at this stage.

Local authorities participating in the Future Jobs Fund by region. The local authority listed is when it is the lead bidder.

Region: East of England

Bedford
Cambridgeshire
Central Beds
Colchester
Harlow
Luton
Norfolk
Peterborough
Suffolk

Region: East Midlands

Bolsover
Erewash
Leicester and Leicester Partnership
Nottinghamshire
West Lindsey

Region: London

Barking and Dagenham
Bromley
Camden
Ealing
Enfield
Greenwich
Hammersmith and Fulham
Haringey
Havering
Host Borough Councils
Hounslow
Islington
Kingston
Lewisham
RB Kensington and Chelsea
Redbridge East Enders
Southwark Earn and learn
Westminster

Region: North East

Darlington BC
Hartlepool
Middlesbrough
North Tyneside
Redcar and Cleveland Borough LSP
Stockton on Tees

Region: North West

Blackpool
Cheshire West and Chester
Copeland
Cumbria
Lancashire
Liverpool City Region

Region: Scotland

Aberdeen
Aberdeenshire
Angus
Argyll and Bute
City of Edinburgh
Clackmannanshire Alliance
Dumfries and Galloway
Dundee
East Ayrshire
East Dunbartonshire
East Lothian
Falkirk
Fife
Glasgow
Highland
Inverclyde
Midlothian
North Ayrshire
North Lanarkshire
Renfrewshire C
Scottish Borders
South Ayrshire
South Lanarkshire
Stirling Council Youth Services
West Dunbartonshire
West Lothian

Region: South East

Brighton and Hove
Bucks
Hampshire
Hastings
Kent
Milton Keynes
Oxfordshire
RB Windsor and Maidenhead
Thanet
West Sussex County Council

Region: South West

Avon and Somerset Probation
Bristol County Council
Cornwall CC
Devon
Dorset
Somerset
Swindon
Trowbridge
Wiltshire County Council

Region: Wales

Cardiff
Carmarthenshire County Council
Merthyr Tydfil CBC
Neath Port Talbot CBC
Pembroke County Council
Vale of Glam Council

Region: West Midlands

Birmingham, Coventry and Black Country
Hereford
Shropshire Council County Training
Shropshire County Council
Stoke on Trent
Stoke-on-Trent County Council and Staffordshire
Warwickshire County Council
Worcestershire

Region: Yorkshire and Humber

Barnsley MDC
Calderdale
City of Bradford
Doncaster
Hull
Humber Economic Partnership
Kirklees Council
Leeds
North Yorkshire
North Yorkshire Learning Consortium
Sheffield City Council
VC Train Consortium
Wakefield Met

Hotels

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many separate bookings at five star or above hotels were made by her Department under its contract with Expotel in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [315696]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP's business travel policy strictly stipulates that 5-star hotels must not be requested by staff, regardless of grade.

Exceptionally, 5-star accommodation may be booked if it clearly provides better value for money than comparable 4-star accommodation.

The number of bookings and expenditure on 5-star hotel accommodation over the last 12 months (January to December 2009) are set out in the table. The number of bookings represents 0.1 per cent. of total hotel bookings within the Department.

	Number/£
Number of bookings	87
Expenditure (£)	14,697.50

Housing Benefit

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average processing time of applications for *(a)* new and *(b)* reassessed claims was in (i) the UK and (ii) each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [321453]

Helen Goodman: Information is only available for Great Britain. Information regarding Northern Ireland is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The available information for local authorities in Great Britain between 2003-04 and 2007-08 has been placed in the Library. The data quality for 2008-09 was not high enough for publication.

The Department has been working with local authorities to improve data quality. This month we intend to publish processing time information for April to September 2009, for between 270 and 300 local authorities whose data meets official statistics standards.

Jobcentre Plus: Buildings

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many jobcentres have undergone estates works to enable them to meet demand for their services in the last 12 months; and at what cost; [304400]

(2) for how many Jobcentre Plus offices estates works are planned to enable them to meet demand; and what the total estimated cost is of all such works; [304401]

(3) which Jobcentre Plus offices that closed in each of the last six years have been re-opened; when each was re-opened; and what the cost was of *(a)* closing and *(b)* re-opening each; [304402]

(4) which Jobcentre Plus offices that closed in each of the last six years are under consideration for re-opening; and what estimate has been made of the cost of *(a)* the closure and *(b)* re-opening of each. [304403]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is the responsibility of the chief executive, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how many jobcentres have undergone estates works to enable them to meet demand for their services in the last 12 months and at what cost; how many Jobcentre Plus offices estate works are planned to enable them to meet demand and what the total estimated cost is of all such works; which Jobcentre Plus offices which closed in each of the last six years have been re-opened, when each was reopened and what the cost was of (a) closing and (b) re-opening each; and which Jobcentre Plus offices which closed in each of the last six years are under consideration for re-opening and what estimate has been made of the cost of (a) the closure and (b) re-opening of each. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In order to ensure that Jobcentre Plus was capable of meeting the challenge of rising caseload volumes as a result of the current economic climate, Customer Service Directors undertook a review of existing services delivery arrangements in each District. This review also took account of planned welfare reform changes for the next two to three years, and the latest known information on the expected increase in business and customer volumes.

This exercise identified a requirement for work in 429 locations to increase capacity for dealing with the higher volumes of customers and to accommodate additional staff. The extent of this work varied from location to location, and we developed a range of solutions to meet additional capacity requirements. We have embarked on a programme of converting or extending our existing buildings where necessary and in the vast majority of sites affected there is sufficient internal space to enable capacity increases by converting under-utilised general office space. In sites where increased capacity is required, the work carried out is reversible and of a temporary nature. Estate modification works have so far been completed in 392 buildings to support meeting the challenge of prevailing economic conditions. The final cost of modification works at these sites is not yet known and will be published in due course.

In order to make our services more accessible to customers we are providing a range of support through outreach, often delivering advisory and other support on partners' premises. We are supplementing these measures by operating extended opening hours in some locations where the need for this is identified locally. This includes some offices opening to the public on Saturday.

We only acquire new temporary space where all other measures are insufficient and Jobcentre Plus presence in these buildings will be clearly badged as temporary facilities. Jobcentre Plus have considered re-opening four offices, which were previously open to the public but have been closed in the last six years, for temporary re-occupation. These sites are detailed at Annex A.

These offices in Annex A were previously closed as part of the Jobcentre Plus modernisation programme. In 2002 Jobcentre Plus inherited around 1,500 offices from the merger of the former Benefits Agency and Employment service. At the time of merger the two organisations had many offices which were geographically close to each other, often in the same street. The modernisation programme has modernised our Jobcentre network to improve customer service, rationalising our estate to provide excellent high street coverage and a single, integrated customer facing office, at the same time reducing cost to the taxpayer. We remain the largest office network in Government with 741 modern Jobcentres supported by 31 modern, industry standard contact centres and 79 main benefit processing centres.

The four offices listed in Annex A have now re-opened and are delivering an appointment-only based service to customers. No further offices which have been closed in the last six years are currently under consideration for re-opening. The original lease exit costs of closing the offices are also included in Annex A. The cost of re-occupation is yet to be finalised.

The Jobcentre Plus estate remains under constant review, taking into account prevailing economic conditions and changes in our service delivery planning. The work recently carried out on our buildings, to meet the challenge of increased business and customer volumes, is of a temporary nature. This ensures we retain the ability to cope with the ever changing demands on Jobcentre Plus, without unnecessarily burdening ourselves with permanent, costly estate which we will not need after the economy has recovered.

I hope this information is helpful.

Annex A

Jobcentre Plus considered re-opening four offices, which were previously open to the public but have been closed in the last six years, for temporary re-occupation

Region	*Location*	*Cost of closure (£)*	*Now re-opened to the public?*
West Midlands	South Northfield, Birmingham	336,183	Yes, re-opened for appointment only service from 23 November 2009
London	Broadway, Bexleyheath	757,909	Yes, re-opened for appointment only service from 8 March 2010
North West	Great Moor Street, Bolton	[1]—	Yes, re-opened for appointment only service from 30 November 2009
West Midlands	Erdington, Birmingham	[1]—	Yes, re-opened for appointment only service from 7 December 2009

[1] Not known.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have made a claim for jobseeker's allowance *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each London borough in each of the last 24 months. [318599]

Angela Eagle: The information is not available as no record is made of the number of claims made for jobseeker's allowance each month.

However, the number of active jobseeker's allowance claims is recorded. The available information has been placed in the Library and is also available online at:

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) by what mechanisms the effect of a person's occupational or personal pension on their entitlement to contribution-based jobseeker's allowance is calculated; [320354]

(2) whether person's entitlement to contribution-based jobseeker's allowance is means-tested according to the *(a)* savings and *(b)* personal or occupational pension income of that (i) person and (ii) their household. [320355]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 4 March 2010]:* There are two types of jobseeker's allowance—contribution-based and income-based. Contribution-based jobseeker's allowance is based on how many national insurance contributions have been paid over the last two complete tax years.

Income-based jobseeker's allowance is dependent on income and savings. For contribution-based jobseeker's allowance, personal and household capital and savings are not taken into account when determining entitlement. However, periodic payments of occupational and personal pensions made to the person claiming contribution-based jobseeker's allowance are taken into account. Pension payments made to anyone else within the household are not considered when deciding entitlement.

When assessing the amount of contribution-based jobseeker's allowance that is payable to a person who is in receipt of a personal or occupational pension, the first £50 per week of that pension is disregarded. For each 1 pence over and above the £50 disregard, 1 pence of jobseeker's allowance is deducted. Under the present arrangements contribution-based jobseeker's allowance is only withdrawn completely from those with pension or annuity payments of more than £114.30 per week, based on April 2009 benefit rates.

General guidance on the application and interpretation of jobseeker's allowance rules for our decision makers can be found in the decision makers guide. A copy of the guide is available in the Library and on the Department for Work and Pensions' website at

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/specialist-guides/decision-makers-guide/

Jobseeker's Allowance: South East

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average duration of a jobseeker's allowance claim was in each local authority area in the South East in each of the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* five years. [320404]

Helen Goodman: The requested information has been placed in the Library.

Occupational Pensions

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department has taken to ensure companies may not end defined benefit schemes for their employees without full consultation. [321302]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 9 March 2010]:* Employers with 50 or more employees who propose closing a defined benefit occupational pension scheme to new members or to future accrual must consult the affected members of the pension scheme or their representatives for at least 60 days before implementing the change.

The Pensions Regulator has powers to impose a penalty on an employer who fails to comply with this requirement to consult.

Pension Credit

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have claimed pension credit in each quarter since April 2008. [320174]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not available.

Pensions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of those employed in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector were active members of an occupational pension scheme in each of the last 10 years. [321489]

Angela Eagle: The number of active members of occupational pension schemes in the public and private sectors are set out in the following table.

	Public sector	*Private sector*	*Total*
1953	3.1	3.1	6.2
1956	3.7	4.3	8.0
1963	3.9	7.2	11.1
1967	4.1	8.1	12.2
1971	4.3	6.8	11.1
1975	5.4	6.0	11.4
1979	5.5	6.1	11.6
1983	5.3	5.8	11.1
1987	4.8	5.8	10.6
1991	4.2	6.5	10.7
1995	4.1	6.2	10.3
2000	4.4	5.7	10.1
2004	5.0	4.8	9.8
2005	-	4.7	-
2006	5.1	4.0	9.2
2007	5.2	3.6	8.8
2008	5.4	3.6	9.0

Notes:

1. The 2005 survey did not cover the public sector and a total figure is therefore not available.
2. Due to changes in the definition of the public and private sectors, estimates for 2000 onwards differ from earlier years. From 2000, organisations such as the Post Office and the BBC were reclassified from the public to the private sectors.
3. Changes to the methodology for 2006 onwards mean that comparisons with 2005 and earlier years should be treated with caution.

Source:

Occupational Pension Schemes Survey

Social Security Benefits: Na h-Eileanan an Iar

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average weekly payment made in such benefit was in that constituency in that period. [319067]

Jim Knight: The information requested is in the table.

Number of cases in payment and average weekly payment of jobseeker's allowance in the Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency in August 2009

Jobseeker's allowance	*Number/£*
Number of cases in payment	430
Average weekly amount paid (£)	66.28

Notes:

1. Benefit recipients are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Average weekly amounts are rounded to the nearest penny
3. All data refers to benefit recipients and will therefore exclude credits only and nil payment cases
4. Figures include number of cases in payment to couples and civil partnerships.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Social Security Benefits: Vulnerable Adults

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons vulnerable adults will only have continued support if they sign the data transfer form; and what advice she has taken on the compatibility of this practice with *(a)* the Human Rights Act 1998 and *(b)* other anti-discrimination legislation. [320749]

Jonathan Shaw: The Work Choice programme guarantees a place for every WORKSTEP customer who chooses to transfer when the new programme commences in October 2010. We will work closely with all WORKSTEP customers to ensure they feel able to give their consent to give the incoming provider the information they need to be able to put the right support in place.

Before Work Choice begins in October the new prime providers will not only have to undertake all the usual activities to set up and prepare their business but will also be under a contractual obligation to understand the often complex employment support needs of up to 14,000 current WORKSTEP customers that will transfer to them.

To enable them to do this, Department for Work and Pensions officials have developed a process to transfer only the necessary minimum customer data from existing providers to incoming prime providers. The process and a supporting data transfer form have been developed in consultation with existing providers, bidders, the Department for Work and Pensions Provision Forum Work Choice Sub-group and the British Association for Supported Employment.

The critical part of the process is for the customer to give their informed consent. They will be invited to do so by their current provider and will be advised that they can withdraw their consent at any time up to 14 days later.

We expect the great majority of customers to give their consent. But any customers who express doubt about whether or not they should give their consent will be able to speak to a Disability Employment Adviser in Jobcentre Plus. If the customer is not reassured by, or if they do not wish to speak with the adviser, they will still be able to move to Work Choice.

In those exceptional cases the current and future providers will agree a convenient time and place where the new provider can discuss with the customer the personal information that the new provider needs to effectively support the customer and to administer the programme.

At all stages during the development of the data transfer process, the Work Choice project has been advised by solicitors in the Department's Legal Group to ensure that the process is compliant with all relevant legislation.

State Retirement Pensions

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the rate of basic state pension payable to *(a)* single pensioners and *(b)* couples (i) was in 1996-97 and (ii) will be in 2010-11; and what the 2010-11 rates would have been if they had been uprated since 1996-97 in line with prices. [321691]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is in the following table:

Level of the basic state pension

£ per week

Financial year	*Standard rate on own contributions*	*Standard rate for couple where one spouse or civil partner is reliant on the other's contributions*
1996-97	61.15	97.75
2010-11 (actual)	97.65	156.15
2010-11 (price uprated)	87.50	139.75

Notes:

1. All figures in cash terms.
2. Uprating calculations employ historic annual increase in the RPI series for September of the previous year.
3. The standard rate of the Category A pension (payable on a person's own contributions) is commonly referred to as the 'singles rate'.
4. Category B pension is about 60 per cent. of the standard rate basic Category A pension. It is currently payable by virtue of a husband's qualifying years or earnings, and from May 2010 or later will also be payable by virtue of a wife's or civil partner's contributions where the wife or civil partner was born after 5 April 1950 and has reached state pension age.
5. The sum of the Category A and Category B pension is often referred to as the 'couples rate'.
6. From 2010-11, anyone reaching SPA will have their BSP entitlement under reformed contributory conditions; 75 per cent. of women will have full basic state pension in their own right in 2010-11.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners received winter fuel allowance on the most recent date for which figures are available. [311776]

Angela Eagle: For winter 2008-09, the last year for which information is available, 12,421,130 people aged 60 or over received the winter fuel payment.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. data.

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for winter fuel payments were made by households in *(a)* England, *(b)* the East of England, *(c)* Bedfordshire and *(d)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [317538]

Angela Eagle: For winter 2008-09, the latest year for which information is available, the following numbers of winter fuel payments were made to households:

	Number
England	7,713,430
East of England	894,710
Bedfordshire	57,520
Mid Bedfordshire	18,350

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent data.

Winter Fuel Payments: Glasgow

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* households and *(b)* individuals in Glasgow East constituency have received winter fuel payments since 1 November 2009. [317053]

Angela Eagle: Information on winter fuel payments in Glasgow East since 1 November 2009 is not yet available. For winter 2008-09, the latest year for which information is available, 11,710 payments were made to households and 15,890 to individuals in that constituency.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. data.

Winter Fuel Payments: Morecambe

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency have received winter fuel payments during this winter. [311300]

Angela Eagle: Information on winter fuel payments in Morecambe and Lunesdale during this winter is not yet available. For winter 2008-09, the latest year for which information is available, 16,430 payments were made to households and 23,100 to individuals in that constituency.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent data.

Winter Fuel Payments: Perth

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* households and *(b)* individuals in Perth and North Perthshire constituency have received winter fuel payments since 1 November 2009. [317059]

Angela Eagle: Information on winter fuel payments in Perth and North Perthshire since 1 November 2009 is not yet available. For winter 2008-09, the latest year for which information is available, 16,270 payments were made to households and 23,500 to individuals in that constituency.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent data.

Work Capability Assessment

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department has paid to Atos Healthcare in each of the last six months. [319997]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 3 March 2010]:* The latest figures available for payment to Atos Healthcare over the period September 2009 to February 2010 is detailed in the following table.

	£
2009	
September	9,280,154
October	8,599,235
November	9,905,895
December	17,437,105
2010	
January	752,941
February	9,759,882

Invoices are raised in arrears for reports completed the previous month. The payment in December exceptionally includes (early) payment for some December outputs.

These figures cover the total number of examinations undertaken and costs relating to written and verbal medical advice, fixed overheads, administrative costs, salaries and fees paid directly to Healthcare Professionals by Atos Healthcare, investment in new technology and other service improvements.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Restaurants: Closures

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many restaurants in *(a)* England, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Castle Point constituency were closed for failing to meet food safety and hygiene standards in each of the last five years; and for how long each was closed in each such case. [321441]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

The figures in the following table show the number of restaurants and caterers subject to an emergency prohibition notice/order, or to a voluntary closure:

	England	*Essex*[1]	*Castle Point*[2]
2008-09	729	11	0
2007-08[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006-07	615	9	1
2005-06	450	5	0
2004-05	470	7	0

n/a = Not available.

[1] Data for Essex includes the district councils for Basildon, Braintree, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping Forest, Harlow, Maldon, Rochford, Tendring and Uttlesford, and the unitary councils for Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock.

[2] Data for Castle Point is for Castle Point district council.

[3] Full year data was not collected for 2007-08.

These figures are based on the monitoring returns for food law enforcement provided by individual local authorities to the Food Standards Agency.

Data are not available for the length of time each restaurant or caterer was closed.

TREASURY

Bank Services

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what support his Department is providing to those who cannot open a bank current account because of their credit rating. [321466]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government have negotiated voluntary agreements with all the major UK banks to offer a basic bank account. Basic bank accounts do not offer overdrafts so new customers do not have to pass a credit check to qualify for an account.

Capital Gains Tax

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the effect on capital gains tax receipts of the introduction of the 50 per cent. income tax rate; [321956]

(2) if he will estimate the annual additional sum to accrue to the Exchequer from charging capital gains tax at the same rates as income tax. [321961]

Mr. Timms: The effect on capital gains tax receipts of the introduction of the 50 per cent. income tax rate was included in the modelling explained to the Treasury Select Committee but no separate estimate has been made.

The relevant transcript is available at pages 33 to 35 and 46 to 48 of:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmtreasy/438/438ii.pdf

The estimate requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost, due to the difficulties of assessing the large behavioural responses that would result from changes of this kind.

Civil Servants: Location

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, on Civil Service: location, from what baseline year the figures for the relocation of civil service posts were calculated; and which Government departments and agencies have not met their targets for relocation. [320900]

Mr. Byrne: The baseline for civil service staffing figures was 1 April 2003 and was used by Sir Michael Lyons in his 2004 report "Well Placed to Deliver?".

The Departments for: Business, Innovation and Skills; Children, Schools and Families; Communities and Local Government; Culture, Media and Sport; Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Department for International Development; Department for Work and Pensions; Her Majesty's Treasury; the Home Office; Ministry of Defence; Ministry of Justice; and the Northern Ireland Office have either already exceeded or have met, or will meet their targets imminently.

The Cabinet Office, Department for Transport, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (previously two departments, Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise) and UK National Statistics (previously the Office for National Statistics) continue to work towards meeting their target.

Departmental Location

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on the relocation of staff from posts in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years. [321424]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There has been no spending on the relocation of staff from either Essex or the Castle Point constituency in any of the last five years.

Departmental Official Visits

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the destination was of each official visit by *(a)* Ministers in his Department and *(b)* officials in his Department, its agencies, HM Revenue and Customs and the Valuation Office Agency in each of the last three years. [321174]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 8 March 2010]*: Ministers and officials of the Treasury, its agencies, HM Revenue and Customs and the Valuation Office Agency undertake official visits throughout the UK and wider. A central record of the destination of such visits is not kept centrally, and compiling the information could not be achieved within the disproportionate costs threshold.

Landfill Tax

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he made of the revenue raised from landfill tax in 2009. [322024]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Estimates of landfill tax revenues are set out in Table B10 of the 2009 pre-Budget report.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the questionnaire which his Department is sending to chief executives of non-departmental public bodies asking for a breakdown of the functions and spending of the body concerned. [320721]

Mr. Byrne: No questionnaire has been issued to the chief executives of NDPBs.

VAT: Veterinary Services

Annette Brooke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on value added tax liability for *(a)* veterinarians' bills and *(b)* animal medication; and if he will make a statement. [321901]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of such representations.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Exports: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies in *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* the City of York exported goods or services to (i) other EU countries and (ii) non-EU countries in the last 12 months. [321726]

Ian Lucas: HM Revenue and Customs publishes a regional breakdown for trade in goods. UK Regional Trade Statistics were published on 11 March 2010. The provisional numbers of unique exporters of goods in Yorkshire and the Humber during the year 2009 for EU and non EU countries were 1,583 and 4,994 respectively.

The UK Trade Statistics are provided at regional level so we are unable to confirm the number of companies for the City of York.

Literacy

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the functional literacy rate of school leavers was in each year since 1997. [304544]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The Department does not currently report figures for functional literacy at age 16. We are piloting functional English qualifications at entry level, level 1 and level 2 to be available from 2010 which will provide young people and adults with the essential knowledge, skills and understanding that will enable them to operate confidently, effectively and independently in life and at work. The Government currently have a National Indicator to increase the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent including GCSEs in English and mathematics in maintained schools. Figures showing the percentage of pupils in maintained schools meeting this target in each year since 1997 is given in the following table:

	Percentage
1997	32.5
1998	34.0
1999	39.4
2000	37.3
2001	38.1
2002	39.5
2003	39.5
2004	40.4
2005	42.5
2006	44.0
2007	45.8
2008	48.2
2009	50.7

Note: Figures from 2005 relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. Figures prior to this relate to 15-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August). Figures relate to pupils in maintained schools.

Since 2005 the Department has also collected data on pupils achieving English and mathematics skills at Level 1. This shows the proportion of pupils achieving Level

1 English and mathematics, literacy and numeracy—even though some may not have achieved the equivalent GCSEs:

	Percentage
2005	91.1
2006	91.6
2007	93.9
2008	93.6
2009	94.5

Note: Figures from 2005 relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. Figures prior to this relate to 15-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August). Figures relate to pupils in maintained schools.

Venture Capital: Wales

Hywel Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the Barnett consequentials for Wales of the *(a)* UK High Technology Fund, *(b)* Regional Venture Capital Funds, *(c)* Community Development Venture (Bridges) Funds, *(d)* Early Growth Funds, *(e)* Enterprise Capital Funds, *(f)* Aspire Fund and *(g)* Capital for Enterprise Fund were in each year for which figures are available. [321954]

Kevin Brennan: The UK High Technology Fund, Enterprise Capital Funds, Aspire Fund and Capital for Enterprise Funds are UK funds. The Regional Venture Capital Funds, Early Growth Funds and Community Development Venture (Bridges) Funds were funds available to the English regions only. They were established during 2000-01 and are no longer open to make new investments. The details of the Barnett Consequentials agreed at that time have been archived and are not immediately available. My right Hon. Friend the Minister of State for Regional Economic Development and Co-ordination will write to the hon. Member in the near future. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the use of imported biomass from areas at risk of *(a)* degradation of natural or semi-natural ecosystems or habitats, *(b)* indirect land use change and *(c)* net biodiversity loss. [321487]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 10 March 2010]:* The Government are determined to ensure that biomass, whether imported or produced in the UK: delivers real and substantive carbon dioxide savings; uses land responsibly avoiding damaging land use change; and does not undermine global food supplies or inflate prices.

We already require suppliers of transport biofuels, and electricity generators over 50 kilowatts, to report on the available information on the origins of the biomass they use and whether the biomass complied with an environmental standards scheme.

We will implement the sustainability criteria set out in the Renewable Energy Directive for transport biofuels and bioliquids for heat and electricity generation. We are currently considering the European Commission's recommendations on sustainability requirements for the use of solid and gaseous biomass sources for heat and electricity. DECC will make an announcement later this month, setting out what actions the Government can now take to introduce sustainability standards for biomass in the UK.

The European Commission is due to report by 31 December 2010 on the impact of indirect land-use change on greenhouse gas emissions and ways to minimise that impact. We are pushing for an early resolution on this within the EU and we will continue to work hard for global sustainability standards.

Boilers: Government Assistance

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions officials from his Department have had with their HM Treasury counterparts on extending the boiler scrappage scheme; and if he will make a statement. [321855]

Joan Ruddock: Officials in DECC have had a wide range of discussions with officials in HM Treasury on a number of issues in the context of expenditure plans. HM Government will consider all proposals for expenditure as part of the budgetary cycle.

Departmental Advertising

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on television advertising in relation to each initiative in each month of 2009. [320335]

Joan Ruddock: The cost of ACT ON CO_2 television advertising for each month in 2009 is outlined in the following table. Costs are media only, include fees and are exclusive of VAT.

	£
2009	
January	590,000
February	564,500
March	613,920
April	10,000
May to September	0
October	1,600,000
November	554,758
December	0

Departmental Location

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on the relocation of staff from posts in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years. [321431]

Joan Ruddock: The Department was formed on 3 October 2008. The Department has not spent any money on the relocation of staff from posts in Essex or Castle Point.

Food: Prices

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on UK food prices of his Department's biomass strategy. [321463]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 10 March 2010]:* The Government are determined to ensure that biomass, whether imported or produced in the UK: delivers real and substantive carbon dioxide savings; uses land responsibly avoiding damaging land use change; and does not undermine global food supplies or inflate prices.

A study carried out by E4Tech to inform the UK's 2009 Renewable Energy Strategy, examined the availability of biomass supplies. The results indicate that there could be sufficient biomass resource potential in the UK for bio-energy to play a significant role in meeting the renewable energy target in 2020, and that imported biomass feedstocks could increasingly become a traded commodity. The study assumed that food demands are met first, and only considered the potential for UK energy crops from land currently not used for arable crops. The study also considered unexploited UK biomass reserves such as energy from waste and bringing back into production forest and woodland that has fallen out of good management practice. These sources of biomass do not compete with food crops and so do not impact on food prices.

Biomass used for the production of transport biofuels currently accounts for approximately 1 per cent. of global land use. The Government undertook an assessment of the causes and implications of the agricultural food price spike in 2007-08 (published on 5 January and available on DEFRA's website as part of the Food 2030 package). The report concluded that biofuels had not been a significant cause of recent food price spikes worldwide. For the longer term, we are supporting the development of "second generation" technology which could produce biofuels from non food sources such as algae, wood, straw and food waste, so reducing pressure on food crops and land.

We will continue to monitor the impact of our bio-energy targets on food prices.

Fuel Poverty: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of households in Birmingham were in fuel poverty in each year since 1997. [321574]

Mr. Kidney: The methodology used for the 2006 work differs from that previously used, so care should be taken in comparing the fuel poverty levels in one area between 2003 and 2006.

Natural Gas: Imports

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans the Government have for investment in gas import projects over the next 10 years. [322029]

Mr. Kidney: Investment is a commercial activity. Details of future commercial investment in gas import projects can be found in National Grid's latest Ten Year Statement (published in December 2009).

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the *(a)* gas import capacity of and *(b)* demand for gas in the UK (i) in 2010 and (ii) in each of the next five years. [322030]

Mr. Kidney: The latest estimates of gas import capacity and demand for gas in the UK for 2010 and each of the next five years can be found in the latest edition of the Energy Markets Outlook (published in December 2009). This can be found on the DECC website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/markets/outlook/outlook.aspx

Natural Gas: Storage

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the lowest level of gas storage has been in each week since 1 December 2009. [321402]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 9 March 2010]:* The Government do not publish this information. However, daily gas storage levels from 1 October 2009 can be found on the National Grid website:

http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Gas/Data/storage/

JUSTICE

Care Proceedings

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish *(a)* the report of Mr. Francis Plowden on court fees for the issue of care proceedings of local authorities and *(b)* his comments on the report. [321720]

Mr. Straw: We are currently finalising arrangements for the publication of the independent review of court fees in care and supervision proceedings undertaken by Francis Plowden. The Review, together with a statement from the Government, will be published on Monday.

Crimes of Violence: Convictions

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions of (i) men and (ii) women in each police force area for the offence of attempted murder there were in each year since 1997. [321913]

Claire Ward: The number of males and females proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for attempted murder, England and Wales, by police force area, from 1997 to 2008 (latest available) is given in Tables 1 and 2.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication in the autumn, 2010.

The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally. The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. From these centrally reported categories it is not possible to separately identify arrests for attempted murder.

Table 1: Number of males proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of attempted murder, by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2008[1] [2] [3] [4]

	Proceeded against											
Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[1]
Avon and Somerset	13	2	9	9	12	3	16	6	4	6	11	2
Bedfordshire	4	3	2	2	10	2	3	7	2	3	2	3
Cambridgeshire	6	6	7	6	9	5	4	4	3	6	—	1
Cheshire	4	5	6	5	5	6	15	—	3	10	5	3
City of London	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
Cleveland	7	5	8	—	9	4	10	5	4	7	7	6
Cumbria	6	12	2	4	3	2	2	2	—	—	1	—
Derbyshire	5	4	3	6	4	1	2	2	—	4	6	4
Devon and Cornwall	9	10	7	15	15	3	8	3	4	3	2	2
Dorset	4	4	3	3	9	5	5	7	8	1	—	2
Durham	6	4	8	1	5	2	1	3	10	1	2	1
Essex	5	7	7	6	11	16	15	12	6	8	4	7
Gloucestershire	3	3	4	3	5	4	3	—	2	3	—	1
Greater Manchester	33	42	40	41	60	56	49	30	15	35	38	20
Hampshire	10	15	24	11	19	11	22	11	11	3	6	3
Hertfordshire	6	4	8	3	3	2	7	5	14	3	4	6
Humberside	1	2	—	5	2	1	9	4	7	5	2	3
Kent	11	5	4	7	7	2	2	7	10	3	4	6
Lancashire	17	15	16	19	16	7	22	14	7	16	14	21
Leicestershire	6	9	14	6	18	17	16	14	12	5	3	1
Lincolnshire	3	1	3	3	7	3	2	3	1	3	1	5
Merseyside	18	22	15	21	17	24	17	16	7	14	10	6
Metropolitan Police	67	69	66	56	76	69	66	55	61	95	82	71
Norfolk	6	4	3	—	6	—	[illegible]	—	—	—	—	2
North Yorkshire	1	4	3	3	5	3	3	2	4	4	3	5
Northamptonshire	7	9	1	1	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	3
Northumbria	12	4	6	8	9	6	7	7	3	1	2	2
Nottinghamshire	5	1	3	3	6	2	5	8	7	1	4	2
South Yorkshire	6	9	11	10	17	11	18	19	12	6	6	10
Staffordshire	3	1	5	—	4	5	5	7	5	1	4	4
Suffolk	4	5	4	2	5	4	1	4	5	—	3	3
Surrey	3	2	2	2	8	5	—	3	5	4	5	2
Sussex	5	5	2	7	20	7	7	7	2	4	6	2
Thames Valley	12	7	15	13	14	25	15	15	11	13	14	13
Warwickshire	5	3	4	—	—	3	—	5	3	2	—	2
West Mercia	9	2	3	9	14	11	1	1	3	4	2	4
West Midlands	35	44	25	52	52	42	53	39	23	36	19	30
West Yorkshire	15	11	10	12	32	31	25	17	23	11	19	13
Wiltshire	1	3	2	5	4	6	6	9	5	3	2	1
Dyfed-Powys	—	1	2	2	1	2	5	4	1	1	4	—
Gwent	11	6	11	2	11	16	7	12	13	5	2	1
North Wales	7	3	5	1	3	1	2	6	3	6	1	5
South Wales[3]	11	18	11	7	5	4	5	6	5	10	6	4
Total	402	391	364	372	530	434	409	388	327	347	308	282

	Found guilty												
Police force area	*1997*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[1]
Avon and Somerset	2	—	2	3	1	1	3	2	—	2	2	1	1
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—		1	1	1
Cambridgeshire	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	1
Cheshire	1	2	1	—	—	3	—	1	—	2	2	1	1

Police force area							*Found guilty*						
	1997	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[1]
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	3	1	—	1	1
Cumbria	2	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—		—
Derbyshire	—	1	1	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	2	1	1
Devon and Cornwall	3	1	—	3	1	1	3	1	—	2	2	2	2
Dorset	1	1	1	2	1	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
Durham	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Essex	—	—	1	—	1	—	3	1	—	1	1	—	—
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	4	2	5	9	2	7	10	7	3	7	8	5	5
Hampshire	4	2	3	1	2	3	1	3	3	6	1	4	4
Hertfordshire	—	1	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
Humberside	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	1	—	2	1	2	2
Kent	3	4	—	—	1	—	2	3	1	—	1	—	—
Lancashire	2	2	3	2	2	2	—	3	3	1	1	5	5
Leicestershire	1	1	2	—	1	2	2	4	2	—	—	1	1
Lincolnshire	1	—	2	4	—	2	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
Merseyside	—	5	2	1	—	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	2
Metropolitan Police	12	12	9	8	7	10	17	12	16	18	21	29	29
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	2	2	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	2	2	2	5	1	—	5	—	1	—	2	1	1
Nottinghamshire	5	1	2	5	1	2	—	6	1	2	1	2	2
South Yorkshire	1	2	—	—	2	3	2	4	2	2	1	3	3
Staffordshire	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	2	1	—	—
Suffolk	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Surrey	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex	2	2	2	1	1	2	3	4	—	—	4	3	3
Thames Valley	2	1	2	1	1	3	6	4	2	6	6	2	2
Warwickshire	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
West Mercia	4	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	—	1	1	1
West Midlands	4	2	7	5	2	4	10	11	8	6	7	5	5
West Yorkshire	5	2	5	2	3	1	7	6	7	4	8	7	7
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dyfed-Powys	—	—	2	—	4	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	—
Gwent	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	3	1	1	—	—
North Wales	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	3	2	2
South Wales[3]	—	2	2	—	1	2	4	2	1	—	1	1	1
Total	69	58	67	58	43	61	90	88	65	75	83	85	85

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offences selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes those proceeded against at Cardiff magistrates court in April, July and August 2008.

[4] The found guilty column may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year and they were found guilty at the Crown court in the following year, or the defendants were found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Table 2 Number of females proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of attempted murder, by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2008[1, 2, 3, 4]

Police force area						*Proceeded against*						
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[3]
Avon and Somerset	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	3	2	—	1	—
Bedfordshire	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	1	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	2

Table 2 : Number of females proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of attempted murder, by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2008[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Proceeded against											
Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[5]
Cheshire	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	—
Cleveland	3	2	1	2	2	—	3	—	1	—	3	2
Cumbria	—	1	—	—	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Devon and Cornwall	2	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	—
Dorset	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Durham	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Essex	—	1	1	2	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	1
Gloucestershire	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	1	—
Greater Manchester	1	7	5	3	9	1	4	4	3	1	1	3
Hampshire	—	1	1	2	2	5	1	—	1	—	—	—
Hertfordshire	—	1	1	1	1	—	2	—	1	—	1	—
Humberside	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—
Kent	1	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Lancashire	2	—	1	1	2	5	1	—	—	—	1	1
Leicestershire	—	1	3	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Lincolnshire	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	[illegible]	—	—
Merseyside	2	3	1	1	2	3	1	2	—	—	1	—
Metropolitan Police	4	4	5	1	4	1	2	2	—	1	4	6
Norfolk	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Northumbria	3	1	2	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	3	2	—	—	3	1	—	1	—	4	—
Staffordshire	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Suffolk	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Surrey	1	—	—	1	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	1
Sussex	1	—	2	1	3	—	1	—	—	—	1	3
Thames Valley	2	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	1
Warwickshire	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
West Mercia	—	—	1	1	1	—	2	1	—	1	1	1
West Midlands	3	1	1	3	5	4	5	3	2	—	—	6
West Yorkshire	2	1	—	1	2	—	1	2	—	—	1	3
Wiltshire	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Dyfed-Powys	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	1	—	2	—	4	1	2	—	—	—
North Wales	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
South Wales[3]	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total	34	40	34	31	47	31	43	29	27	10	25	33

	Found guilty											
Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[5]
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Cleveland	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Devon and Cornwall	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Dorset	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Found guilty											
Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[4]
Greater Manchester	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Hampshire	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Hertfordshire	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Humberside	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Kent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Lancashire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Leicestershire	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan Police	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	2
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Surrey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Sussex	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
Thames Valley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Mercia	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
West Midlands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
West Yorkshire	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dyfed-Powys	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Wales[3]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total	1	6	3	7	3	4	4	8	1	4	4	8

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offences selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used

[3] Excludes those proceeded against at Cardiff magistrates court in April, July and August 2008

[4] The found guilty column may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year and they were found guilty at the Crown Court in the following year, or the defendants were found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on office refurbishments in each year since its inception. [320507]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 17-18W, to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude).

The tables in my previous answer which covered Ministry of Justice HQ, NOMS (custodial and non-custodial, HMCS Estates, Tribunals Service and the Legal Services Commission) provide costs for the full calendar year 2007; and costs up to November 2008. The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007 and we are unable to separate costs for that year.

Costs incurred since then, including the balance of 2008, are shown as follows. The costs stated are for refurbishment works to the fabric and structure of buildings and do not include items such as furniture and are exclusive of VAT.

Balance of 2008: £862,392

2009: £150,223

These figures above cover Ministry of Justice HQ and the Tribunals Service buildings. Figures are not held centrally for buildings in the NOMS and HMCS estates and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, they have not been refurbishing offices, rather reducing and making better use of the buildings that they have.

2010 costs are not yet available.

Departmental Location

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on the relocation of staff from posts in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years. [321426]

Mr. Wills: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Local HR teams are not necessarily informed of physical relocations within a given business area.

The Ministry of Justice's accounting systems record relocation costs at an organisational level and not according to the geographical location of staff.

It would incur disproportionate cost to identify spend on the relocation of staff from posts in Essex and Castle Point. To identify the information required would involve investigations by all of the local offices and agencies of the Ministry of Justice operating within Essex and the Castle Point constituency, including prisons, probation services, magistrates, Crown and county courts and tribunal services.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice from which companies his Department sourced temporary staff in each of the last three years; how many temporary staff his Department employed in each year; and what the monetary value of the contracts with each such company was in each such year. [320015]

Mr. Straw: According to the definition provided by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC), temporary staff include all interim managers, specialist contractors, administrative, manual and clerical staff. Personnel who are engaged to provide advisory services are excluded as the OGC classifies them as "consultancy". It is often the case that the same suppliers provide temporary staff and consultants.

On its formation on 9 May 2007 as a merger between the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and parts of the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice inherited a range of local procurement arrangements which were brought together within a single departmental wide function from April 2009. It is not possible therefore to identify expenditure on temporary staff classified according to OGC definitions from procurement data prior to the current financial year. To provide this information would incur the disproportionate cost of scrutinising thousands of invoices from relevant suppliers to determine what costs relate to consultancy and what costs relate to temporary staff.

The new departmental wide arrangements are based on the best practice processes that were already in operation on the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) agency. NOMS is therefore able to identify £27.25 million expenditure in 2008-09 with its contracted Administrative and Clerical Agency Staff providers at that time (Brook Street; Hays; Reed; Employment Plus; Kelly Services; NRG and Office Angels).

In most cases, the Ministry now utilises the OGC Buying Solutions framework arrangements for the provision of temporary staff. The suppliers under this framework can be found at the following link under the categories of (1) Temporary Clerical and Admin (2) Specialist Contractors (3) Interim Management:

http://www.buyingsolutions.gov.uk/frameworks/full.html

Using a slightly different definition for headcount monitoring purposes, the departmental annual resource accounts identify agency and contract staff costs and numbers within notes (9a) and (9c) in the column headed "others". However, these figures include some staff on temporary contracts who are employed directly by the Ministry of Justice, hence the pension and social security costs disclosed within the total expenditure. The figures also include the Scotland Office and Wales Office. It would incur disproportionate costs to identify the specific costs and numbers associated with staff employed through agencies rather than directly employed. The accounts can be found at the following links for 2008-09 and 2007-08 respectively:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/resource-accounts-2008-09.htm

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/1055.htm

As part of its Performance Efficiency Programme, the Ministry of Justice has controls in place to restrict and reduce the number of agency and contract staff employed. In some circumstances, however, the employment of temporary personnel is unavoidable, for example to secure specialist skills for specific time-limited projects or to cover for absences such as maternity leave.

Driving under Influence: Convictions

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions of (i) men and (ii) women in each police force area for the offence of drink driving there have been since 1997. [321912]

Claire Ward: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for "driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs", by sex and police force area, from 1997 to 2008 (latest available) is shown in tables 1 and 2.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned to be published in the autumn, 2010.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

Information on summary motoring offences including those of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs are non-notifiable and as a result are not covered by the collection.

Table 1. Number of males proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs, by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2008[1, 2, 3]

	Proceeded against											
Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	2,387	2,233	2,347	2,113	1,888	2,007	2,261	2,249	2,167	1,981	2,017	1,772

Table 1: Number of males proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs, by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2008[1, 2, 3]

Police force area	*Proceeded against* 1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Bedfordshire	1,066	930	757	681	826	838	929	953	950	972	883	747
Cambridgeshire	924	898	798	664	666	713	797	914	996	1,050	1,043	917
Cheshire	1,618	1,594	1,486	1,405	1,317	1,735	1,528	1,751	1,372	1,456	1,449	1,245
City of London	379	275	211	167	139	208	197	157	165	149	181	115
Cleveland	817	706	704	667	753	766	795	882	761	806	783	808
Cumbria	756	709	700	660	612	633	661	733	659	686	680	565
Derbyshire	1,396	1,278	1,242	1,186	1,192	1,234	[illegible]	1,554	1,345	1,264	1,191	969
Devon and Cornwall	2,069	1,986	1,992	1,907	2,095	2,129	2,283	2,130	2,080	1,960	1,908	1,794
Dorset	996	989	935	897	934	937	1,013	1,035	986	957	1,010	874
Durham	894	863	957	970	918	932	966	1,007	910	790	796	694
Essex	2,437	2,186	2,190	2,150	2,108	2,150	2,202	2,362	2,131	2,229	2,084	1,918
Gloucestershire	919	833	740	672	746	812	754	759	711	710	601	613
Greater Manchester	4,016	3,886	3,893	3,814	3,864	3,793	3,817	3,846	3,786	3,749	3,650	3,011
Hampshire	3,200	3,084	3,264	2,948	3,005	3,331	3,132	3,215	2,825	2,426	2,462	2,245
Hertfordshire	1,464	1,473	1,459	1,320	1,451	1,640	1,641	1,629	1,554	1,511	1,503	1,307
Humberside	1,080	1,171	1,103	1,110	1,049	1,218	1,330	1,367	1,315	1,247	842	477
Kent	2,056	2,327	2,313	2,272	2,309	2,400	2,410	2,589	2,419	2,332	2,329	2,025
Lancashire	2,825	2,380	2,177	2,171	1,927	2,161	2,269	2,251	2,234	2,274	2,191	1,965
Leicestershire	1,438	1,297	1,389	1,304	1,359	1,422	1,443	1,445	1,382	1,275	1,290	1,099
Lincolnshire	980	882	805	735	791	746	972	998	991	1,051	1,051	997
Merseyside	2,290	2,042	1,804	1,891	1,918	1,951	2,268	2,394	2,434	2,219	1,998	1,529
Metropolitan police	14,886	12,798	11,332	10,936	10,651	11,970	11,549	11,758	11,650	11,579	10,738	9,717
Norfolk	952	954	837	776	976	1,017	1,106	1,026	1,040	1,137	1,008	861
North Yorkshire	1,106	1,039	930	908	896	938	1,002	938	1,033	998	946	886
Northamptonshire	1,000	945	927	708	356	195	698	794	737	868	748	790
Northumbria	2,263	2,047	2,018	2,196	2,097	2,107	2,245	2,192	2,127	2,064	1,984	1,835
Nottinghamshire	1,705	1,511	1,523	1,452	1,332	1,220	1,379	1,358	1,369	1,403	[illegible]	1,255
South Yorkshire	1,993	1,646	1,620	1,815	1,748	1,625	1,748	1,864	1,906	1,667	1,690	1,609
Staffordshire	1,752	1,637	1,428	1,554	1,222	1,374	1,399	1,419	1,411	1,354	1,369	1,251
Suffolk	898	882	907	762	823	940	1,010	1,125	914	979	866	711
Surrey	1,205	1,137	1,203	1,328	1,528	1,422	1,236	1,270	1,231	1,170	1,204	1,074
Sussex	2,076	1,891	1,903	1,845	2,128	2,050	2,125	2,064	1,933	2,023	1,985	1,794
Thames Valley	3,638	3,458	3,302	3,056	2,904	3,786	3,419	3,094	2,987	2,941	2,852	2,406
Warwickshire	686	671	730	682	758	724	782	742	734	725	808	650
West Mercia	1,727	1,571	1,475	1,395	1,477	1,463	1,527	1,532	1,672	1,682	1,591	1,424
West Midlands	5,622	4,949	4,229	3,953	4,225	4,383	4,481	4,759	4,830	4,739	4,651	3,877
West Yorkshire	3,352	3,161	3,176	2,879	2,858	3,161	3,191	3,328	3,366	3,134	2,936	2,609
Wiltshire	892	947	832	775	848	828	816	845	840	809	639	546
Dyfed-Powys	857	822	788	731	724	792	811	807	777	762	748	646
Gwent	976	1,016	933	1,016	946	898	973	980	901	986	894	787
North Wales	1,122	1,079	1,012	1,088	1,049	1,066	1,117	1,108	1,097	1,112	1,049	890
South Wales[3]	2,282	2,340	2,088	2,171	2,283	2,159	2,269	2,323	2,303	2,227	2,062	1,494
Total England and Wales	86,997	80,523	76,459	73,730	73,696	77,874	79,883	81,546	79,031	77,453	73,966	64,798

Police force area	*Found guilty* 1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Avon and Somerset	2,212	2,077	2,210	1,981	1,780	1,894	2,089	2,126	2,042	1,857	1,903	1,678
Bedfordshire	959	877	709	640	771	780	863	891	882	929	841	708
Cambridgeshire	887	860	756	627	645	680	758	880	972	1,022	1,012	883
Cheshire	1,546	1,513	1,406	1,304	1,239	1,551	1,443	1,664	1,313	1,390	1,393	1,209

	Found guilty											
Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
City of London	366	252	202	145	129	182	187	133	154	143	165	105
Cleveland	759	652	636	612	707	721	702	813	725	776	754	790
Cumbria	720	670	678	625	584	602	634	709	627	656	663	545
Derbyshire	1,280	1,212	1,173	1,105	1,105	1,161	1,264	1,472	1,290	1,210	1,151	940
Devon and Cornwall	1,931	1,870	1,876	1,801	1,987	2,020	2,145	2,036	1,987	1,851	1,830	1,720
Dorset	938	930	889	843	881	877	960	975	943	915	925	819
Durham	840	810	907	924	874	879	901	972	880	760	775	673
Essex	2,320	2,025	2,078	2,048	1,986	2,031	2,105	2,266	2,027	2,130	2,003	1,844
Gloucestershire	878	787	703	626	715	766	711	716	651	655	564	596
Greater Manchester	3,819	3,685	3,728	3,648	3,638	3,622	3,616	3,686	3,600	3,595	3,511	2,923
Hampshire	3,040	2,920	3,078	2,788	2,840	3,134	2,934	3,007	2,659	2,299	2,373	2,145
Hertfordshire	1,386	1,371	1,378	1,238	1,356	1,538	1,516	1,498	1,448	1,431	1,427	1,247
Humberside	1,024	1,102	1,072	1,055	998	1,132	1,242	1,289	1,265	1,208	801	436
Kent	1,947	2,217	2,205	2,169	2,147	2,245	2,250	2,455	2,314	2,238	2,236	1,938
Lancashire	2,701	2,266	2,057	2,034	1,790	1,995	2,090	2,097	2,107	2,108	2,057	1,876
Leicestershire	1,366	1,224	1,301	1,245	1,257	1,346	1,386	1,386	1,300	1,210	1,218	1,038
Lincolnshire	924	825	770	690	726	706	907	961	930	1,008	1,008	951
Merseyside	2,129	1,901	1,703	1,712	1,776	1,833	2,107	2,174	2,266	2,097	1,896	1,478
Metropolitan police	13,515	11,503	10,215	9,808	9,427	10,752	10,333	10,674	10,601	10,766	10,052	9,218
Norfolk	940	937	823	746	911	966	1,036	965	996	1,094	962	827
North Yorkshire	1,062	977	885	862	859	901	938	887	977	963	914	863
Northamptonshire	928	867	850	639	315	181	644	749	655	823	711	755
Northumbria	2,069	1,881	1,869	2,038	1,935	1,946	2,060	2,030	1,986	1,942	1,861	1,756
Nottinghamshire	1,598	1,402	1,404	1,349	1,245	1,128	1,285	1,292	1,284	1,322	1,201	1,203
South Yorkshire	1,868	1,554	1,544	1,700	1,643	1,528	1,613	1,757	1,795	1,582	1,625	1,526
Staffordshire	1,655	1,554	1,360	1,504	1,158	1,293	1,325	1,323	1,306	1,255	1,310	1,208
Suffolk	846	842	861	718	764	889	938	1,041	875	934	825	687
Surrey	1,121	1,071	1,140	1,223	1,271	1,292	1,156	1,190	1,161	1,110	1,142	1,029
Sussex	1,923	1,756	1,785	1,708	1,950	1,918	1,990	1,967	1,861	1,943	1,928	1,734
Thames Valley	3,402	3,241	3,081	2,844	2,680	3,543	3,192	2,897	2,809	2,745	2,679	2,317
Warwickshire	647	631	698	644	722	686	755	713	705	695	781	625
West Mercia	1,643	1,487	1,420	1,338	1,407	1,387	1,432	1,436	1,601	1,616	1,529	1,379
West Midlands	5,220	4,564	3,893	3,652	3,928	4,071	4,192	4,467	4,580	4,487	4,458	3,715
West Yorkshire	3,154	2,939	2,950	2,672	2,583	2,883	2,976	3,146	3,161	2,950	2,742	2,448
Wiltshire	845	907	810	748	809	778	781	794	798	775	616	519
Dyfed-Powys	803	774	749	675	677	725	757	750	724	716	700	617
Gwent	926	954	857	951	891	851	883	917	829	919	846	738
North Wales	1,043	1,018	963	1,037	965	986	1,034	1,044	1,049	1,067	1,024	858
South Wales[3]	2,166	2,179	1,965	2,046	2,114	2,045	2,112	2,183	2,147	2,105	1,979	1,448
Total England and Wales	81,346	75,084	71,637	68,762	68,185	72,444	74,242	76,428	74,282	73,297	70,391	62,012

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[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008. *Source:* Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: Number of females proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs, by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2008[1, 2, 3]

	Proceeded against											
Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	253	234	257	267	235	276	309	350	356	330	360	301
Bedfordshire	84	95	73	76	83	102	121	100	92	133	125	96
Cambridgeshire	90	102	96	74	69	87	103	117	118	134	142	139
Cheshire	200	200	201	195	170	272	270	278	233	285	282	287
City of London	44	30	28	14	18	28	20	15	12	16	13	13
Cleveland	81	77	75	73	74	93	105	106	116	134	116	135
Cumbria	84	73	95	88	83	89	106	92	130	116	111	137
Derbyshire	148	120	116	143	121	148	173	197	188	204	169	184
Devon and Cornwall	236	232	233	268	252	269	357	325	326	363	326	340
Dorset	110	128	118	141	133	165	148	156	158	164	201	174
Durham	64	[illegible]	119	104	112	135	118	134	163	144	162	141
Essex	240	221	251	222	254	274	276	349	340	352	363	385
Gloucestershire	92	113	94	89	99	98	120	131	120	124	128	141
Greater Manchester	358	411	413	421	448	462	512	506	541	501	552	568
Hampshire	377	361	375	387	363	442	413	443	462	393	411	396
Hertfordshire	140	153	136	181	191	233	249	244	256	277	284	264
Humberside	99	105	95	146	129	127	120	139	139	166	120	62
Kent	155	219	229	232	261	310	268	305	317	312	349	362
Lancashire	316	340	303	297	284	340	321	351	344	414	411	398
Leicestershire	115	105	117	125	126	152	162	167	169	158	176	137
Lincolnshire	100	92	93	69	86	75	115	154	150	133	137	138
Merseyside	228	239	178	190	189	240	296	328	327	343	387	349
Metropolitan police	1,392	1,240	1,187	1,091	1,057	1,210	1,179	1,328	1,253	1,343	1,340	1,338
Norfolk	89	99	95	93	116	153	122	149	153	149	165	164
North Yorkshire	147	111	126	126	130	128	155	141	171	163	182	166
Northamptonshire	82	99	105	76	32	24	85	99	120	104	101	130
Northumbria	194	234	231	242	228	290	328	344	300	337	373	355
Nottinghamshire	162	145	158	166	159	113	164	183	180	217	214	211
South Yorkshire	146	178	153	176	171	193	232	216	208	215	229	238
Staffordshire	177	191	149	149	146	201	196	222	220	208	221	253
Suffolk	102	109	129	97	101	117	152	154	128	138	146	146
Surrey	128	155	173	190	243	215	193	194	227	211	256	247
Sussex	271	215	252	226	267	255	275	341	311	337	372	303
Thames Valley	357	368	353	405	352	473	450	414	425	438	447	432
Warwickshire	79	80	90	72	101	89	95	81	103	138	137	134
West Mercia	111	118	146	144	172	206	192	191	146	215	188	182
West Midlands	371	348	312	397	374	389	419	517	524	564	557	490
West Yorkshire	277	304	296	307	280	313	329	330	354	333	411	401
Wiltshire	106	86	105	108	110	116	133	117	125	129	129	116
Dyfed-Powys	95	107	103	82	99	113	123	133	121	117	124	122
Gwent	111	113	99	113	135	104	131	149	180	161	153	177
North Wales	128	137	147	139	127	150	157	153	166	168	176	171
South Wales[3]	217	255	239	266	285	310	332	333	359	349	372	307
Total England and Wales	8,356	8,452	8,343	8,467	8,465	9,579	10,119	10,776	10,831	11,230	11,618	11,230

	Found guilty											
Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	241	219	237	249	220	259	285	331	337	313	339	287
Bedfordshire	80	87	68	73	74	100	114	95	87	131	122	96
Cambridgeshire	84	96	92	72	68	82	96	114	116	128	138	138

Police force area						*Found guilty*						
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Cheshire	192	192	194	184	157	248	257	269	229	265	269	277
City of London	44	29	23	11	18	27	20	15	11	15	12	13
Cleveland	77	74	73	67	70	87	98	102	113	131	111	128
Cumbria	82	70	93	85	81	84	103	90	122	112	109	136
Derbyshire	132	113	108	135	111	139	157	188	178	186	165	176
Devon and Cornwall	218	218	222	251	238	251	344	305	312	348	310	323
Dorset	106	121	111	131	120	155	143	144	150	154	184	159
Durham	61	103	117	101	108	125	114	133	154	140	158	134
Essex	225	206	231	214	245	259	261	332	327	342	350	371
Gloucestershire	91	107	88	85	94	93	112	126	111	114	122	136
Greater Manchester	342	394	398	406	429	441	495	492	530	479	540	550
Hampshire	362	343	351	370	345	408	394	424	440	375	392	381
Hertfordshire	133	144	136	171	182	224	233	238	237	261	276	250
Humberside	98	101	89	145	122	119	115	135	132	159	114	60
Kent	147	212	217	220	243	295	258	291	297	304	333	343
Lancashire	302	325	292	278	269	321	303	330	325	395	382	385
Leicestershire	110	103	111	118	123	143	151	160	158	142	166	134
Lincolnshire	95	88	85	67	82	73	110	143	142	124	128	135
Merseyside	218	228	171	179	174	226	279	311	306	317	373	335
Metropolitan Police	1,280	1,153	1,085	995	947	1,105	1,073	1,218	1,159	1,257	1,265	1,277
Norfolk	85	97	92	92	107	143	114	140	145	147	157	159
North Yorkshire	142	103	123	124	123	125	147	138	166	158	180	162
Northamptonshire	78	90	93	64	28	24	82	95	109	96	96	123
Northumbria	179	220	219	234	219	274	302	316	280	320	352	343
Nottinghamshire	149	137	152	159	149	104	152	175	170	209	199	202
South Yorkshire	136	168	146	166	164	182	216	198	190	203	226	236
Staffordshire	165	181	143	137	145	194	187	210	205	195	210	244
Suffolk	98	104	119	90	92	108	143	145	122	130	138	140
Surrey	123	152	166	180	198	200	183	178	219	202	252	242
Sussex	255	198	236	217	255	240	261	328	296	330	351	295
Thames Valley	341	352	335	375	333	451	422	385	402	416	423	411
Warwickshire	78	77	86	70	98	84	92	76	102	134	132	132
West Mercia	105	112	138	139	160	197	181	180	138	205	179	175
West Midlands	358	333	292	374	356	364	402	481	500	543	536	465
West Yorkshire	271	284	274	286	265	287	308	312	334	316	389	375
Wiltshire	103	85	104	104	104	113	127	109	121	124	125	106
Dyfed-Powys	90	103	96	73	93	103	115	123	113	113	114	111
Gwent	107	105	96	107	125	96	125	140	170	151	144	166
North Wales	124	131	139	132	121	138	148	145	158	159	170	163
South Wales[3]	205	232	227	254	269	298	317	309	345	335	355	293
Total England and Wales	7,912	7,990	7,868	7,984	7,924	8,989	9,539	10,169	10,258	10.678	11.086	10,767

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[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used. [3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008. *Source:* Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Drugs: Convictions

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions, *(c)* convictions and *(d)* cautions of (i) men and (ii) women in each police force area for drug offences relating to each type of drug there were in each year since 1997. [321902]

Claire Ward: The number of offenders cautioned, defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts by drug class, sex and police force area, 1997 to 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in tables 1 and 2 that have been placed in the House Library.

Court data for 2009 are planned for publication in the autumn, 2010.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person, robbery and drug offences.

Data on arrests for drug offences from 1999-2000 (previous data unavailable) to 2007-08 (latest available) are provided in tables 3 and 4 as follows. It is not possible from these centrally reported data, to identify the specific drugs involved in the arrests.

Table 3: Number of males arrested for drug offences by sex and police force area, England and Wales, 1999-2000 to 2007-08

	Males								
Force name	*1999-2000*[1]	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Avon and Somerset	1,436	1,735	1,698	1,670	1,433	1,231	1,229	1,444	1,892
Bedfordshire	892	775	850	789	695	550	526	471	652
Cambridgeshire	725	619	694	585	543	439	581	751	910
Cheshire	1,415	1,250	1,166	1,288	873	846	584	661	828
Cleveland	1,242	1,043	1,468	1,499	1,383	n/a	1,138	878	920
Cumbria	1,103	761	755	861	785	770	764	767	717
Derbyshire	1,180	1,020	1,046	1,214	1,288	1,095	810	691	861
Devon and Cornwall	2,059	1,903	2,456	2,478	2,250	1,554	1,602	1,544	1,806
Dorset	1,111	948	1,036	946	910	820	839	899	908
Durham	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	868	797	918	695	648
Essex	1,704	1,833	1,438	1,625	1,399	959	877	966	1,992
Gloucestershire	904	903	893	890	794	542	538	459	681
Greater Manchester	4,169	3,992	3,703	4,481	4,413	3,502	3,517	3,734	4,597
Hampshire	3,392	2,695	2,668	2,628	2,587	2,061	1,979	1,559	2,077
Hertfordshire	946	1,106	1,015	1,053	1,125	1,216	1,335	1,383	1,794
Humberside	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,200	984	870	999	1,083
Kent	2,663	2,072	2,077	2,144	1,772	1,343	1,658	1,709	2,393
Lancashire	2,881	2,812	2,898	3,616	3,165	2,927	2,955	2,867	3,742
Leicestershire	1,200	1,120	1,396	1,624	1,158	940	897	835	891
Lincolnshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	238	776	717
London, City of	n/a	n/a	440	640	577	279	341	374	409
Merseyside	4,990	4,741	4,675	6,650	6,275	4,231	4,100	3,502	6,164
Metropolitan Police	22,807	20,348	21,417	25,823	21,771	14,489	16,342	17,598	20,505
Norfolk	1,201	899	881	905	921	812	709	782	1,008
Northamptonshire	670	603	545	507	439	589	561	538	538
Northumbria	4,044	4,153	4,642	5,103	4,609	3,723	3,882	3,852	3,142
North Yorkshire	1,295	1,132	1,359	1,470	1,471	n/a	n/a	842	994
Nottinghamshire	1,363	1,621	1,481	1,604	1,824	1,284	n/a	1,670	2,148
South Yorkshire	2,984	2,935	2,797	2,895	2,327	1,649	1,623	1,742	2,083
Staffordshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,378	1,119	931	1,336	1,539
Suffolk	858	695	633	752	813	664	712	704	589
Surrey	1,059	1,354	1,374	1,306	1,015	835	889	799	1,108
Sussex	327	1,481	1,892	2,003	1,717	1,271	1,610	1,488	1,868
Thames Valley	3,305	3,033	3,192	3,257	3,232	3,910	4,299	4,275	4,160
Warwickshire	605	413	462	457	477	334	316	342	307
West Mercia	1,488	1,263	1,166	1,069	1,090	905	1,009	972	960
West Midlands	n/a	n/a	n/a	6,209	5,716	3,102	3,614	3,410	4,342
West Yorkshire	4,353	3,954	3,574	4,393	3,958	3,273	3,839	3,701	3,345
Wiltshire	648	601	576	473	516	326	374	344	324
Dyfed Powys	n/a	1,376	2,343	2,681	2,031	1,176	1,323	1,138	1,126
Gwent	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,534	1,250	556	643	755	733
North Wales	1,265	1,089	1,106	1,[illegible]60	1,854	1,006	776	1,242	1,306
South Wales	556	2,609	3,075	2,931	2,386	1,307	1,802	1,797	2,035
England and Wales[1]	105,400	97,400	101,500	114,700	97,800	72,500	76,300	77,291	90,842

n/a = Data not available

[1] Figures for England and Wales from 1999-2000 to 2005-06 are estimated to take account of missing data for some forces, additionally, data for 1999-2000 is of lower quality than subsequent years due to it being the first year data on arrests were collected.

Table 4: Number of females arrested for drug offences by sex and police force area, England and Wales, 1999-2000 to 2007-08

Force name	*Females* *1999-2000*[1]	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Avon and Somerset	248	328	317	340	305	269	267	247	300
Bedfordshire	101	129	119	116	116	104	86	53	83
Cambridgeshire	117	116	110	126	103	86	116	159	180
Cheshire	207	141	110	139	108	117	121	123	124
Cleveland	252	216	377	471	435	n/a	332	251	291
Cumbria	194	186	121	154	152	157	148	164	116
Derbyshire	173	137	170	163	229	220	149	128	172
Devon and Cornwall	407	344	485	554	485	352	381	341	398
Dorset	223	176	213	168	189	142	212	231	200
Durham	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	167	163	193	160	190
Essex	350	275	205	225	186	177	137	164	316
Gloucestershire	183	150	173	195	138	124	101	84	144
Greater Manchester	622	601	512	655	713	632	630	535	726
Hampshire	376	364	453	461	434	397	396	317	394
Hertfordshire	135	145	150	146	176	177	227	205	250
Humberside	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	284	258	212	210	259
Kent	499	316	337	377	368	305	315	331	389
Lancashire	434	373	418	594	483	422	432	413	508
Leicestershire	181	183	204	198	168	163	169	153	136
Lincolnshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	43	130	111
London, City of	n/a	n/a	28	36	58	41	33	29	32
Merseyside	504	463	488	667	632	347	188	380	603
Metropolitan Police	2,478	2,182	2,155	2,284	2,085	1,650	1,609	1,735	1,926
Norfolk	206	163	139	169	196	200	155	178	191
Northamptonshire	136	95	113	115	114	122	124	100	90
Northumbria	675	678	831	859	781	698	624	614	590
North Yorkshire	208	200	190	237	352	n/a	n/a	188	240
Nottinghamshire	264	251	255	258	349	301	n/a	307	413
South Yorkshire	602	551	483	506	595	447	428	415	459
Staffordshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	238	231	183	212	269
Suffolk	154	99	94	125	192	166	143	131	114
Surrey	153	178	172	169	144	145	156	139	161
Sussex	62	285	390	392	397	279	338	365	438
Thames Valley	522	518	506	516	613	571	624	582	579
Warwickshire	76	41	59	64	55	60	63	45	48
West Mercia	247	204	200	170	207	185	204	167	157
West Midlands	n/a	n/a	n/a	675	663	391	435	395	424
West Yorkshire	712	775	728	722	752	518	782	679	533
Wiltshire	122	90	95	69	63	62	72	64	75
Dyfed Powys	n/a	250	385	461	377	218	228	218	225
Gwent	n/a	n/a	n/a	185	130	71	86	92	96
North Wales	188	150	144	239	282	181	159	228	217
South Wales	99	443	656	640	529	387	434	445	523
England and Wales[1]	15,700	13,900	15,100	16,400	15,200	12,200	12,300	12,102	13,690

n/a = Data not available

[1] Figures for England and Wales from 1999-2000 to 2005-06 are estimated to take account of missing data for some forces, additionally, data for 1999-2000 is of lower quality than subsequent years due to it being the first year data on arrests were collected.

Freedom of Information: Welsh Language

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the merits of translating information provided in response to requests made under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998 from *(a)* English to Welsh and *(b)* Welsh to English in cases where the request is made by a person who does not have an adequate understanding of the language used in the documents. [321442]

Mr. Wills: The Government have made no such assessment. Where an individual makes a request for information under the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) or the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), any information released will generally be provided in the language in which it is held. There are no obligations under either the DPA or the FOIA for organisations to translate the information requested into different languages.

Legal Aid

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much and what proportion of the legal aid budget has been spent on terrorism cases in each of the last five years. [320747]

Mr. Straw: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is unable to identify all legal aid expenditure on terrorism cases as terrorism cases do not have a specific identifying code for all the legal aid schemes. Cases in the Crown Court do not have an identifying code unless they are funded under the Very High Cost Case Scheme (VHCC). Therefore, it is not possible to state what proportion of all legal aid expenditure was attributable to terrorism cases.

Table 1 shows legal aid expenditure during each of the last five years on terrorism cases funded under the VHCC scheme covering cases expected to last 41 days or longer at trial.

Table 2 shows legal aid expenditure during each of the last three years on terrorism cases funded under the magistrates court fee scheme and the police station advice and assistance scheme. The unique code for identifying terrorism cases under the magistrates court fee scheme and the police station advice and assistance scheme was introduced in 2007-08.

Table 1: VHCC legal aid expenditure

	£000
2005-06	7,000
2006-07	12,000
2007-08	22,000
2008-09	20,200
2009-10[1]	8,600

Table 2: Legal aid expenditure

£000

	Police station advice and assistance	*Magistrates court fee scheme*	*Total*
2005-06	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006-07	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007-08	283.5	187.1	470.6
2008-09	152.9	179.2	332.1
2009-10[1]	132.2	96.0	228.1

[1] Up to and including January 2010.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much expenditure his Department incurred on the employment of special advisers and communications and press officers in each year since 2003. [319756]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) was formed in May 2007.

Special Advisers

The amount spent on special advisers is as follows:

£000

	Financial year	
	2008-09	*2007-08*
Wages and salaries	147	200
Social security costs	14	21
Other pension costs	36	17
Total	197	238

The figures above represent the element of costs within note 9 (a) to the published departmental annual resource accounts that relates to MoJ's Request for Resource 1 in respect of MoJ headquarters and executive agencies. The balance of the published totals, which amount to £424,000 in 2008-09 and £511,000 in 2007-08, reflects the costs of Special Advisors supporting the Scotland Office (MoJ Request for Resource 2) and the Wales Office (MoJ Request for Resource 3).

Press Officers

The cost of press officers, including contractors and agency staff and excluding support staff, is as follows:

	£000
2008-09	2,219
2007-08	1,774

Communications Officers

Communications officers include intranet/internet staff, event organisation, marketing and publishing staff and others involved in communications roles. Expenditure, including contractors and agency staff within the head office team, is as follows:

	£000
2008-09	4,694
2007-08	3,862

The costs of press officers and communications officers relate to MoJ headquarters and its four executive agencies (HM Courts Service, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), the Tribunals Service and the Office of the Public Guardian).

The growth in expenditure on press officers and communications officers reflects the significantly increased size and remit of MoJ compared to its predecessor, the Department for Constitutional Affairs, and a consequent need to increase the number and capability of staff employed. To meet the challenge, a number of communications-led projects were undertaken which required the employment of specialist contractors by the MoJ HQ Communications Directorate for a limited period of time which further increased costs in 2008-09 on a one-off basis.

The MoJ is one of the largest Departments in Government. Communications, including the work of the press office, is an important element of this. The MoJ press office operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, dealing with all media relations for the Department and its agencies from the international, national and regional media.

Offending Behaviour Course

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of offenders with *(a)* learning difficulties and *(b)* learning disabilities had (i) taken part in an Offending

Behaviour Course and (ii) qualified for an Offending Behaviour Course and were awaiting a starting date on the last date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [321317]

Maria Eagle: This is a complex area of work and there is an extensive programme of work under way to better understand and meet the needs of offenders with learning disabilities. Much of this work is set out in a National Delivery Plan which was published by the Department of Health in November 2009 which is being overseen by a new Health and Criminal Justice Board. This plan builds on the Government's response to Lord Bradley's review of people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the Criminal Justice System, and work already under way.

There is a commitment across Government to work together to improve the health and well being of offenders across the criminal justice pathway—in police, courts, probation and prison services, and in the community.

Detailed information on offenders with learning difficulties or disabilities is held in a number of places including individual case files or by those who have undertaken specialist assessments or are responsible for particular activities or data. Therefore to collate, validate and provide meaningful information for this question, and in many cases manually check records, could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Whether an offender requires a particular programme will depend upon the assessment of their risk and needs. All reasonable adjustments should be made to ensure programmes are accessible to those who could potentially benefit, and if not alternative provision should be made.

The National Offender Management Service offers a number of interventions to meet the needs of offenders including for example an adapted sex offender treatment programme. It has also recently been agreed to develop an adapted version of the Thinking Skills Programme, and a new programme for violent offenders to accommodate a broader range of learning needs.

Young Offender Institutions: Languages

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offender institutions have foreign national co-ordinator posts; and how many such posts are vacant. [321735]

Maria Eagle: Although each prison in England and Wales is required to produce a foreign national prisoner policy it is not a mandatory requirement of this policy that a foreign national coordinator be appointed. Nevertheless, out of 21 designated young offender institutions in England and Wales 14 currently have foreign national coordinators in post.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what guidance and training is available to young offender institution staff in working with children who do not speak English as a first language; [321738]

(2) what provision is made for young people in prison who do not speak English [321740]

(3) in how many young offender institutions interpreters are provided for *(a)* induction, *(b)* education, *(c)* healthcare, *(d)* sentence planning and *(e)* disciplinary matters. [321752]

Maria Eagle: There are no specific instructions or training for staff in young offender institutions working with children who do not speak English. However guidance issued to establishments to support the development of local polices for managing foreign national prisoners reminds staff of the need to support prisoners whose English is poor and to encourage to them learn English while in prison. All establishments are able to offer courses in English as a second language as part of the core curriculum where the need arises.

All establishments in England and Wales can access interpreting and translation services. The availability of these services should, wherever possible, be advertised throughout establishments and, in particular, in areas such as reception, induction, health care and segregation units.

Information on the use of interpreting facilities is not broken down by service within individual establishments.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice under what circumstances an interpreter is required to be provided for a foreign national child in custody. [321751]

Maria Eagle: Providers of secure accommodation for young people are required to ensure that young people are able to understand what their sentence involves. It is particularly important that young people can understand and contribute to the meetings that are held to plan and review their progress while in custody. If this requires the use of an interpreter or translation service then this must be arranged.

Young people must receive key documentation in a form that they can understand. This may involve the information being reproduced in their own language or provision of an interpreter or translation service to explain it to them.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the *(a)* cost, *(b)* capital cost and *(c)* cost per square metre of each Building Schools for the Future project. [316583]

Mr. Coaker: The National Audit Office report, "The Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme: Renewing the secondary school estate" (HC 135 Session 2008-09 12 February 2009) estimated that the average cost to local authorities of establishing a Local Education Partnership to deliver its BSF project was £6.5 million. This includes local authority staff and adviser costs.

The cost of building a school varies greatly depending on the size, location, type of site, facilities included, and the amount of new build and refurbishment in the project. The capital cost of BSF projects is kept under control by the funding arrangements the Department has put in place with Partnerships for Schools. These place the cost of increasing the scope of school projects with the local authorities, where responsibility lies for keeping projects affordable.

The average total capital cost and cost per square metre of completed BSF mainstream schools is:

	Average total capital cost (£ million at today's prices)	*Cost per square metre (£ at today's prices)*
New build schools	20.04	1,810
Remodelled/ refurbished schools	11.06	1,157

The capital cost includes preliminaries, overhead and profit, external works, professional fees and surveys, sub and super structure, internal finishes, building fittings and furnishings, services and furniture and equipment. Average cost information has been provided because of the commercial sensitivity of data on individual schools.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reason Dorset county council has not been invited to enter the Building Schools for the Future programme in 2009-10. [322146]

Mr. Coaker: Local authorities are prioritised on the need for Building Schools for the Future (BSF) investment but must also demonstrate that they are ready and able, and have all the elements in place to deliver their BSF project. As well as assessing submissions to enter on a case-by-case basis, bids are also compared against each other so that the most ready and able are selected.

The assessment of Dorset's "Readiness to Deliver" submission concluded that further work is needed in some areas before the authority can be deemed ready to enter BSF. Applications from some authorities were also considered to be stronger than that submitted by Dorset.

Partnerships for Schools will work with the local authority over the coming weeks to address the areas that need further work.

Education: Finance

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school education in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) nationwide in each year since 1997. [313495]

Mr. Coaker: Figures are not available for the parliamentary constituency of Jarrow as data are collected at a local authority level. The available information has been placed in the Libraries.

GCSE

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 at academies achieved five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics but excluding equivalents in each year since 2000. [304656]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is in the following table. The first academy opened in September 2002 with first results published for 2003.

	Number of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A-C inc. English and Maths in Academies*	*Percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C inc. English and maths academies*
2003	58	10.8
2004	221	11.9
2005	290	13.9
2006	1,044	29.3
2007	1,819	28.4
2008	3,790	31.7
2009	6,729	33.8

Qualifications included are full GCSEs, GCSE double awards and applied GCSEs. Equivalents are excluded.

Figures for 2003 and 2004 are based on pupils aged 15. All other figures are based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of 16-year-olds did not achieve five GCSEs at grades A* to C in *(a)* Leeds, West constituency, *(b)* West Yorkshire and *(c)* England in 2009. [306622]

Mr. Coaker: The proportion of pupils at the end Key Stage 4 that did not achieve five or more GCSEs at grade A*-C or the equivalent in 2009 was:

(a) 47.0 per cent. in maintained schools located in the Leeds West constituency.

(b) 32.0 per cent. in schools maintained by West Yorkshire local authorities of Leeds Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield.

(c) 30.0 per cent. in all schools in England.

This answer is derived from the revised Achievement and Attainment tables.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 of each ethnic group who were *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals, did not achieve a GCSE at A* to C grade in (i) English, (ii) mathematics, (iii) history, (iv) French and (v) physics in each year since 1997. [309212]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 6 January 2010]*: Figures for 2005 to 2009 are presented in the tables and are derived from the National Pupil Database (NPD). The way subject level information has been captured on the NPD means that figures prior to 2005 are not consistent with later years and have therefore not been provided in this answer.

Figures are based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

		White		Mixed		Asian		Black	
		No. of Non-FSM pupils not achieving A*-C	No. of FSM pupils not achieving A*-C	No. of Non-FSM pupils not achieving A*-C	No. of FSM pupils not achieving A*-C	No. of Non-FSM pupils not achieving A*-C	No. of FSM pupils not achieving A*-C	No. of Non-FSM pupils not achieving A*-C	No. of FSM pupils not achieving A*-C
English	2005	170,490	40,898	3,438	1,685	9,402	6,174	6,603	4,250
	2006	172,966	39,481	3,741	1,785	10,029	5,885	6,757	4,193
	2007	171,548	38,027	4,190	1,902	10,290	5,500	6,781	3,843
	2008	163,920	36,193	4,456	1,868	10,062	5,152	6,530	3,731
	2009	148,438	34,280	4,236	1,801	10,547	4,996	6,263	3,678
Maths	2005	197,517	43,629	4,346	1,935	9,810	6,567	7,780	4,684
	2006	197,736	41,823	4,753	2,007	10,317	6,136	8,028	4,562
	2007	192,470	40,053	5,051	2,102	10,207	5,787	7,768	4,076
	2008	183,003	37,620	5,424	2,029	10,531	5,295	7,471	3,915
	2009	164,815	35,642	5,021	2,047	10,415	5,097	7,098	3,918
History	2005	337,632	52,116	7,377	2,430	19,723	9,530	11,913	6,020
	2006	348,146	50,789	8,231	2,629	21,381	9,366	12,778	6,125
	2007	355,783	49,972	9,349	2,852	22,408	9,029	13,268	5,916
	2008	353,080	48,564	10,377	2,870	24,014	8,867	13,618	5,912
	2009	335,422	47,062	10,654	3,034	25,085	8,963	13,984	6,227
French	2005	335,547	52,078	7,086	2,421	19,122	9,576	11,471	5,641
	2006	356,909	51,492	8,193	2,605	21,218	9,624	12,590	5,861
	2007	370,361	50,711	9,303	2,809	22,998	9,378	13,169	5,640
	2008	373,047	49,441	10,576	2,875	24,487	9,193	13,483	5,641
	2009	355,510	48,494	10,850	3,063	25,579	9,251	13,945	5,983
Physics	2005	408,161	54,999	8,830	2,626	23,019	10,424	13,419	6,423
	2006	418,481	53,629	9,808	2,797	24,853	10,346	14,543	6,586
	2007	424,182	52,716	10,883	3,054	25,787	9,974	15,025	6,339
	2008	409,035	50,738	11,760	3,062	26,895	9,644	15,266	6,315
	2009	378,830	49,425	11,928	3,290	27,100	9,596	15,412	6,635

		Chinese		Any other ethnic group		Refused or not obtained	
		No. of Non-FSM pupils not achieving A*-C	No. of FSM pupils not achieving A*-C	No. of Non-FSM pupils not achieving A*-C	No. of FSM pupils not achieving A*-C	No. of Non-FSM pupils not achieving A*-C	No. of FSM pupils not achieving A*-C
English	2005	550	85	1,368	1,057	7,629	1,648
	2006	581	99	1,341	1,026	6,599	1,258
	2007	475	72	1,518	999	4,225	1,054
	2008	532	86	1,608	1,055	2,983	796
	2009	527	48	1,772	1,007	2,377	610
Maths	2005	301	51	1,405	1,004	8,763	1,762
	2006	288	73	1,360	1,000	7,432	1,329
	2007	236	49	1,444	922	4,780	1,109
	2008	236	51	1,449	965	3,318	865
	2009	256	47	1,594	935	2,564	632
History	2005	1,570	188	2,630	1,830	14,039	2,163
	2006	1,489	216	2,567	1,566	11,896	1,651
	2007	1,440	172	2,829	1,536	8,019	1,401
	2008	1,476	202	3,064	1,703	5,923	1,116
	2009	1,561	162	3,345	1,770	5,066	899

		Chinese		*Any other ethnic group*		*Refused or not obtained*	
		No. of Non-FSM pupils not achieving A-C*	*No. of FSM pupils not achieving A*-C*	*No. of Non-FSM pupils not achieving A*-C*	*No. of FSM pupils not achieving A*-C*	*No. of Non-FSM pupils not achieving A*-C*	*No. of FSM pupils not achieving A*-C*
French	2005	1,347	180	2,403	1,476	14,122	2,156
	2006	1,350	193	2,452	1,477	12,218	1,671
	2007	1,293	167	2,674	1,476	8,404	1,412
	2008	1,424	205	2,852	1,654	6,168	1,133
	2009	1,498	173	3,250	1,728	5,325	913
Physics	2005	1,811	212	3,020	1,656	16,708	2,300
	2006	1,676	235	2,977	1,677	14,122	1,748
	2007	1,607	189	3,253	1,664	9,516	1,474
	2008	1,553	216	3,350	1,839	6,766	1,173
	2009	1,530	164	3,637	1,901	5,736	950

		White		*Mixed*		*Asian*		*Black*	
		% of Non-FSM pupils not achieving A-C*	*% of FSM pupils not achieving A*-C*	*% of Non-FSM pupils not achieving A*-C*	*% of FSM pupils not achieving A*-C*	*% of Non-FSM pupils not achieving A*-C*	*% of FSM pupils not achieving A*-C*	*% of Non-FSM pupils not achieving A*-C*	*% of FSM pupils not achieving A*-C*
English	2005	39.6	73.6	36.5	63.3	38.2	58.1	47.7	65.1
	2006	39.0	72.8	35.8	62.7	37.6	55.6	44.9	62.8
	2007	38.0	71.3	35.9	61.3	36.6	53.8	43.3	59.5
	2008	36.4	69.9	34.2	57.4	35.6	51.4	40.5	57.7
	2009	34.5	67.5	31.2	54.3	33.6	49.2	37.5	53.3
Maths	2005	45.9	78.5	46.1	72.7	39.8	61.8	56.1	71.7
	2006	44.5	77.1	45.4	70.5	38.6	58.0	53.4	68.3
	2007	42.7	75.1	43.3	67.8	36.6	56.6	49.6	63.1
	2008	40.7	72.7	41.7	64.4	35.1	52.8	46.4	60.6
	2009	38.3	70.1	37.0	61.7	33.2	50.2	42.5	56.8
History	2005	78.4	93.7	78.3	91.4	80.1	89.6	86.0	92.2
	2006	78.4	93.7	78.7	92.4	80.1	88.5	85.0	91.7
	2007	78.9	93.7	80.1	91.9	80.4	88.3	84.8	91.6
	2008	78.5	93.8	79.7	91.4	80.0	88.4	84.6	91.5
	2009	78.0	93.4	78.5	91.2	80.0	88.3	83.7	90.3
French	2005	77.9	93.7	75.2	91.0	77.6	90.1	82.8	86.4
	2006	80.3	95.0	78.3	91.5	79.5	90.9	83.7	87.7
	2007	82.1	95.0	80.4	91.8	81.1	91.7	84.1	87.3
	2008	82.9	95.5	81.2	91.3	81.6	91.7	83.7	87.3
	2009	82.7	95.4	79.9	92.4	81.6	91.2	83.5	86.7
Physics	2005	94.8	98.9	93.8	98.7	93.4	98.1	96.8	98.3
	2006	94.3	98.9	93.8	98.3	93.1	97.7	96.7	98.6
	2007	94.0	98.8	93.2	98.5	92.5	97.6	96.0	98.1
	2008	90.9	98.0	90.3	97.2	89.6	96.2	94.8	97.7
	2009	88.1	97.3	87.2	96.5	86.4	94.6	92.2	96.2

		Chinese		Any other ethnic group		Refused or not obtained	
		% of Non-FSM pupils not achieving A*-C	% of FSM pupils not achieving A*-C	% of Non-FSM pupils not achieving A*-C	% of FSM pupils not achieving A*-C	% of Non-FSM pupils not achieving A*-C	% of FSM pupils not achieving A*-C
English	2005	26.3	36.6	42.2	62.6	43.7	70.8
	2006	29.6	39.1	41.8	59.6	44.6	70.6
	2007	24.8	34.1	43.6	57.6	42.0	70.2
	2008	26.9	33.7	43.3	55.8	39.9	65.8
	2009	25.5	23.0	43.2	50.3	36.2	61.8
Maths	2005	14.4	22.0	43.4	59.4	50.2	75.7
	2006	14.6	28.9	42.4	57.9	50.2	74.6
	2007	12.3	23.2	41.5	53.7	47.5	73.9
	2008	11.9	20.0	39.0	51.0	44.4	71.5
	2009	12.4	22.5	38.9	46.7	39.1	64.0
History	2005	75.2	81.0	81.2	90.6	80.3	93.0
	2006	75.7	85.4	80.6	90.7	80.4	92.6
	2007	75.3	81.5	81.3	89.5	79.8	93.3
	2008	74.5	79.2	82.5	90.0	79.2	92.3
	2009	76.5	77.5	81.6	88.5	77.2	91.1
French	2005	64.5	77.6	74.2	87.4	80.8	92.7
	2006	68.7	76.3	76.4	85.6	82.5	93.8
	2007	67.6	79.1	76.8	85.9	83.6	94.1
	2008	71.9	80.4	76.8	87.4	82.5	93.7
	2009	72.5	82.8	79.3	86.4	81.2	92.5
Physics	2005	86.7	91.4	93.2	98.0	95.6	98.8
	2006	85.2	92.9	92.7	97.2	95.4	98.1
	2007	84.0	89.6	93.5	96.9	94.7	98.2
	2008	78.4	84.7	90.2	97.2	90.5	97.0
	2009	74.1	78.5	88.7	95.0	87.4	96.3

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls achieved five A* to C grades at GCSE, including English and mathematics but excluding equivalents in the (i) earliest and (ii) most recent year for which figures are available. [309635]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* In 1997, 96,468 (32.2 per cent.) boys and 112,587 (39.2 per cent.) girls aged 15 achieved five or more GCSEs[1] at grade A*-C including English and maths.

In 2009, 141,357 (43.5 per cent.) boys and 162,523 (52.5 per cent.) girls at the end of Key Stage 4 achieved five or more GCSEs[2] at grade A*-C including English and maths.

[1] Includes full, double and short course GCSEs only.

[2] Includes full, double and short course GCSEs as well as GCSEs in vocational subjects.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each parliamentary constituency achieved five or more GCSEs excluding equivalent qualifications at grades A* to C in 2009. [318193]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information by Government office region and England can be found in the following table. The figures by parliamentary constituency have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Number and percentage of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4[1] in (a) England[2], (b) each Government office region[3] achieving five or more A-C grades at GCSE excluding equivalents in 2008-09*

	Number of pupils[1] achieving 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE excluding equivalents	Percentage of pupils[1] achieving 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE excluding equivalents
North East	15,134	49.3
North West	44,225	53.1
Yorkshire and Humber	30,029	49.3
East Midlands	27,334	52.9
West Midlands	32,826	50.6
East	36,583	56.1
London	42,100	57.3
South East	51,779	57.7
South West	32,319	57.1
England	312,404	54.0

[1] National and Regional figures include pupils attending all maintained schools (including city technology colleges and academies).

[2] England figures include pupils recently arrived from overseas.

[3] Regional figures do not include pupils recently arrived from overseas.

Source:

National Pupil Database (2008-09 amended data)

GCSE: Young Offenders

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of 16-year-olds who had been in custody for more than one year was entered for GCSE examinations in each year since 1997; and what proportion gained five A* to C grades at GCSE in each such year. [301603]

Mr. Coaker: Data from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) show that in the 2006/07 academic year, there were 163 enrolments in GCSEs by under 18-year-olds in HM Prison Service Young Offender Institutions. Of these, 18 resulted in grades A* to C and 50 resulted in grades below C. In the 2007/08 academic year, there were 207 enrolments in GCSEs. Of these, seven resulted in grades A* to C, 57 resulted in grades below C and there were 52 GCSE courses still to be completed.

The data above include only achievements that were secured by young people who took the examination while they were in custody. Those who were released before the examination date may have continued study and taken examinations in the community. Some young people in Young Offender Institutions are still registered at schools and colleges in the community and therefore any GCSEs that they achieve while in custody will be reflected in the achievement figures of their respective school or college.

HM Prison Service Young Offender Institutions make up part of the custodial estate for under 18s and achievements of GCSEs in Secure Children's Homes, Secure Training Centres, or private prisons are not recorded centrally.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1645W, on local government finance, what data sets not contained in the national indicator set local authorities are required to submit to his Department. [314953]

Mr. Coaker: Local authorities are required under section 251 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (formerly section 52 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998) to prepare and submit an education budget statement (containing details of the LAs funding plans for the financial year) before the start of each financial year (i.e. by 31 March). They are also obliged to prepare and submit an education outturn statement (containing details of the actual expenditure and funding of schools and LAs during the financial year) at the end of each financial year.

Details on exactly what data are collected by these exercises can be accessed via the Every Child Matters website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/strategy/financeandfunding/informationforlocalauthorities/section52/section52/

Pupils: City of York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on average per child on *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils in state schools in the City of York (i) in cash terms and (ii) at constant prices in each year since 1996-97. [322117]

Mr. Coaker: The available information is shown in the following table:

School based expenditure per pupil in City of York local authority from 1996-97 to 2008-09

	Cash terms expenditure per pupil in City of York LA			Cash terms expenditure per pupil in England		
	Primary education	Pre-primary and primary education	Secondary education	Primary education	Pre-primary and primary education	Secondary education
1996-97	—	1,540	2,210	—	1,740	2,350
1997-98	—	1,600	2,350	—	1,740	2,360
1998-99	—	1,730	2,460	—	1,870	2,450
1999-2000	1,760	1,800	2,430	2,010	2,050	2,610
2000-01	1,860	1,870	2,640	2,210	2,290	2,830
2001-02	2,180	2,260	2,830	2,400	2,570	3,150
2002-03	2,390	—	3,080	2,530	—	3,230
2003-04	2,560	—	3,330	2,750	—	3,550
2004-05	2,680	—	3,660	2,910	—	3,800
2005-06	2,930	—	3,860	3,150	—	4,070
2006-07	3,140	—	3,970	3,360	—	4,320
2007-08	3,290	—	4,190	3,580	—	4,620
2008-09	3,490	—	4,570	3,780	—	4,890

Notes:

1. The financial information used in the answer to this PQ is taken from the Department's s52 data collection.
2. 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the R01 form collected by CLG to the Section 52 form from the DCSF. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of consistent financial reporting (CFR) and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables. The change in sources is shown by blank rows.
3. Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending maintained establishments within each sector and are drawn from the DCSF annual schools census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.
4. Local government reorganisation (LGR) took place during the mid to late 1990's.
5. Expenditure was not distinguished between the pre-primary and primary sectors until the inception of Section 52 for financial year 1999-2000.
6. School based expenditure in LA maintained nursery schools was not recorded in 2002-03 and comparable figures are not available for 2003-04 onwards.
7. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 10 March 2010.

Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry and *(c)* mathematics teachers were recruited through school-based teacher training programmes excluding Teach First in (i) 1997, (ii) 2004, (iii) 2006 and (iv) the latest year for which figures are available. [319362]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answers 1 March 2010]*: The available information is given in two tables. The first shows recruitment to employment based initial teacher training courses, excluding the Teach First programme. The second table shows recruitment to school centred initial teacher training courses.

Recruitment to secondary initial teacher training courses: employment based routes, excluding Teach First, Years: 1997/98, 2004/05, 2006/07 and 2008/09, Coverage: England

	1997/98	*2004/05*	*2006/07*	*2008/09*
Secondary	50	4,560	4,410	3,930
Of which:				
Mathematics	*	530	460	440
Science	*	700	550	490
Biology	n/a	n/a	90	110
Chemistry	n/a	n/a	70	90
General sciences	n/a	n/a	350	220
Physics	n/a	n/a	50	80

n/a = Not available

* = Less than 5

Notes:

1. Includes recruitment to the Graduate Teacher Programme, Registered Teacher Programme and the Overseas Trained Teacher Programme. Excludes the Teach First programme, which started in 2003/04.

2. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

3. Figures for 1997/98 have been taken from TDA records at the end of the academic year and are not directly comparable with data for later years.

4. The latest available full year figures for recruitment to employment based courses are for 2008/09. Recruitment data for 2009/10 relate to the autumn term only.

Source:

TDA's Employment Based Routes Database

Recruitment to secondary school centred initial teacher training courses by selected subject. Years: 1997/98, 2004/05, 2006/07, 2008/09 and 2009/10. Coverage: England

	1997/98	*2004/05*	*2006/07*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Secondary	430	850	890	820	880
Of which:					
Mathematics	30	90	90	100	110
Science	70	140	160	160	150
Biology	n/a	n/a	20	20	20
Chemistry	n/a	n/a	10	10	20
General sciences	n/a	n/a	120	120	110
Physics	n/a	n/a	10	10	10

n/a = Not available

Notes:

1. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Recruitment numbers for 2009/10 are provisional and include actual and forecasted trainees who are expected to enter initial teacher training courses during the academic year.

Source:

TDA's Trainee Numbers Census

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many entrants into the Graduate Teacher Programme were *(a)* under 23, *(b)* between 23 and 25, *(c)* between 26 and 30, *(d)* between 31 and 35, *(e)* between 36 and 40, *(f)* between 41 and 45 and *(g)* over 45 years old in (i) 1997, (ii) 2003 and (iii) the last year for which figures are available. [319981]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 2 March 2010]:* The available information is presented in the table and shows the number of trainees at the end of their first year of the Graduate Teacher Programme by age group in 2003/04 and 2007/08.

The Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP) was introduced in 1997/98 as a route for mature trainees with a lower age limit of 24. The anticipation of age discrimination legislation and a desire to widen access to GTP without threatening postgraduate and undergraduate routes led to the removal of the age restriction. The age limitation did not apply from 2003/04 in anticipation of the introduction of the age discrimination regulations in 2006 (Equal Employment (Age) regulations 2006).

Graduate Teacher Programme: Age breakdown of first year trainees, Years 2003/04 and 2007/08, Coverage: England

	Age group								
	Under 25	*25 to 29*	*30 to 34*	*35 to 39*	*40 to 44*	*45 to 49*	*50 to 54*	*Over 55*	*Total*
2003/04	380	1,760	890	780	770	420	170	60	5,210
2007/08	1,200	1,710	670	570	560	350	110	20	5,190

Notes: 1. Data relating to the age of trainees are not collected on entering initial teacher training courses. This information is collected as part of the Performance Profiles at the end of the trainees' first year. 2. The Graduate Teacher Programme was introduced in 1997/98 but a breakdown by age is not available for this year. 3. Performance Profiles data are collected at the end of a trainees' first year. Data for 2008/09 were collected in autumn 2009 and will be published in July 2010. 4. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. *Source:* TDA Performance Profiles.

Truancy

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many schools placed in special measures more than *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 25, *(f)* 30, *(g)* 35, *(h)* 40, *(i)* 45, *(j)* 50, *(k)* 60 and *(l)* 75 per cent. of pupils were classified as persistent truants in the latest year for which figures are available. [315521]

Mr. Coaker: The available information, on persistent absentees, is shown in the tables. These cover both authorised and unauthorised absence. Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy.

Maintained primary[1], state funded secondary[1, 2] and special[3] schools: Number of schools placed in special measures by the percentage of persistent absentees[4, 5], Year 2007/08, Coverage: England

	Number of schools in special measures			
Percentage of school enrolments who are Persistent Absentees[6, 7]:	*Total*	*Primary*	*Secondary*	*Special*
More than 5%	121	39	67	15
More than 10%	39	3	23	13
More than 15%	19	0	7	12
more than 20%	10	0	2	8
More than 25%	8	0	0	8
More than 30%	8	0	0	8
More than 35%	8	0	0	8
More than 40%	7	0	0	7
More than 45%	6	0	0	6
More than 50%	4	0	0	4
More than 60%	2	0	0	2
More than 75%	0	0	0	0
Total number of schools in special measures[5]	380	283	81	16

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Includes schools with at least one enrolment aged between 5 and 15.
[5] Persistent Absentees are defined as having 64 or more sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year, typically over 20 per cent. overall absence rate.
[6] The number of Persistent Absentees expressed as a percentage of the total number of enrolments.
[7] Those schools counted in the 'more than 60%' category are also counted in all the lower categories. Similarly, for schools in the 'more than 50%' category, and all lower categories.
[8] The total number of schools includes two schools (one primary and one special) that did not return absence data.
Source:
School Census

Maintained primary[1], state funded secondary[1, 2] and special[3] schools: Number of schools placed in special measures by the percentage of persistent absentees[4, 5]. Year: 2006/07. Coverage: England

Percentage of school enrolments who are Persistent Absentees[6, 7]:	*Number of schools in special measures* *Total*	*Primary*	*Secondary*	*Special*
More than 5%	123	30	80	13
More than 10%	58	0	46	12
More than 15%	24	0	12	12
More than 20%	15	0	3	12
More than 25%	13	0	1	12
More than 30%	10	0	0	10
More than 35%	9	0	0	9
More than 40%	7	0	0	7
More than 45%	7	0	0	7
More than 50%	6	0	0	6
More than 60%	2	0	0	2
More than 75%	0	0	0	0
Total number of schools in special measures[8]	375	274	84	17

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all—through academies).
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Includes schools with at least one enrolment aged between 5 and 15.
[5] Persistent Absentees are defined as having 64 or more sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year, typically over 20 per cent. overall absence rate.
[6] The number of Persistent Absentees expressed as a percentage of the total number of enrolments.
[7] Those schools counted in the 'more than 60%' category are also counted in all the lower categories. Similarly, for schools in the 'more than 50%' category, and all lower categories.
[8] The total number of schools includes five schools (three primary and two special) that did not return absence data.
Source:
School Census

Young People's Learning Agency

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to ensure that the Young People's Learning Agency publishes on its websites minutes of its council and committee meetings within two weeks of those meetings taking place; and if he will make a statement. [320277]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 4 March 2010]:* I expect the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) to follow best practice in making information publicly available, in line with the model publication scheme set out by the Information Commissioner's Office.

The agency will commence operations on 1 April 2010 and will consider a publication scheme at its first meeting, although it is important to note that I would not expect the agency to publish records of any meetings until they have been agreed as a proper record.

HEALTH

Abortion

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1393-94W, on abortion, whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated studies which demonstrate a direct causal link between its expenditure on contraception services in the last two years and the trend in the abortion rate over the same period; and if he will make a statement. [322101]

Gillian Merron: The Department has not commissioned or evaluated any studies which seek to demonstrate a direct causal link between recent investment in contraception and the decline in abortion rates over the same period. However, research undertaken in the United States found that 86 per cent. of the reduction in the US teenage birth rate between 1995 and 2002 was due to increased contraceptive use Santelli et al, "Explaining Recent Declines in Adolescent Pregnancy in the United States: The Contribution of Abstinence and Improved Contraception Use", *American Journal of Public Health*, January 2007, vol. 97, No. 1. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Blood: Contamination

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has made an estimate of the cost to the public purse of implementing Lord Archer's recommendations on compensation to those affected by NHS-supplied contaminated blood. [322033]

Gillian Merron: The Department has made an estimation that the potential cost of implementing in full Lord Archer's recommendations as set out in his report, on financial relief to those affected by NHS-supplied contaminated blood and blood products, could be approximately £3-3.5 billion.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial assistance, excluding lump sum payments, is available for those diagnosed with *(a)* HIV and Hepatitis C, *(b)* HIV only and *(c)* Hepatitis C only as a result of the transfusion of NHS-supplied contaminated blood. [322034]

Gillian Merron: The Government currently make ex-gratia payments to those infected with HIV by contaminated NHS blood and blood products, through the Macfarlane and Eileen Trusts and to those infected with hepatitis-C by contaminated NHS blood and blood products through the Skipton Fund. In addition to the new flat rate sum of £12,800 per annum paid to infected registrants with the Macfarlane and Eileen Trusts, the trusts make discretionary payments which vary on a case by case basis. The Skipton fund only makes lump sum payments.

Cancer: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of urgent GP referrals for suspected cancer in Birmingham were seen by a specialist within two weeks of referral in each year since 1997; what percentage of urgent GP referrals of cancer cases in Birmingham were treated within two months of referral in each of those years; what the average waiting time to be seen by a specialist in cases of non-urgent GP referral for suspected cancer in Birmingham was in each such year; what the average time from referral to treatment in cases of non-urgent GP referral for cancer in Birmingham was in each such year; and how many cancer consultants there were in Birmingham in each such year. [321571]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. However, data relating to the percentage of patients with suspected cancer seen within two weeks (from 2002-03) following urgent referral from a general practitioner, and the percentage of patients with suspected cancer receiving treatment within two months (from 2004-05), in the Birmingham area, has been placed in the Library.

The number of medical consultants working within the six main cancer specialities in the Birmingham area from 1997 to 2008 are shown in the following table:

	Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust	*University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust*	*Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Trust*	*Birmingham Women's Healthcare NHS Trust*	*Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust*	*Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust*
1997	20	45	12	6	0	—
1998	18	46	12	6	1	—
1999	22	44	14	7	3	—
2000	21	37	14	7	4	—
2001	24	50	16	6	3	—
2002	25	46	16	10	3	26
2003	26	48	17	11	6	26
2004	30	56	17	11	6	26
2005	31	66	17	10	5	28
2006	38	57	18	7	6	31
2007	48	66	19	11	5	34
2008	47	73	20	10	5	36

Notes:

1. The six main cancer specialties include clinical oncology, medical oncology, haematology, histopathology, palliative medicine and clinical radiology.

2. Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust was formed in 2002 from a part merger of Sandwell Healthcare NHS Trust and City Hospital NHS Trust. It is therefore not possible to accurately map this trust prior to 2002.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care, medical and dental workforce census.

Cancer: Drugs

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what drugs for the treatment of cancer the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has *(a)* recommended and *(b)* not recommended for NHS use since 1 November 2008; how long the appraisal of each took; and whether the pharmaceutical company supplying each such drug offered to make it available on a risk-sharing basis. [321547]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is shown in the table. For each of the appraisals, the table shows whether one or more Patient Access Schemes agreed between the Department of Health and the manufacturer have been considered by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

Topic	*Start of NICE appraisal*[1]	*Date of final NICE guidance*	*Recommendation*	*Patient access scheme considered by NICE*
Yondelis (trabectedin) for soft tissue sarcoma	September 2008	February 2010	Partial recommendation	Yes
Hycamtin (topotecan) for small cell lung cancer	August 2008	November 2009	Partial recommendation	No
Hycamtin (topotecan) for Cervical Cancer (recurrent)	December 2008	October 2009	Partial recommendation	No
Sutent (sunitinib) for Gastrointestinal stromal tumours	August 2008	September 2009	Partial recommendation	Yes

Topic	*Start of NICE appraisal*[1]	*Date of final NICE guidance*	*Recommendation*	*Patient access scheme considered by NICE*
Alimta (pemetrexed) for the first-line treatment of non-small-cell lung cancer	October 2008	September 2009	Partial recommendation	No
Erbitux (cetuximab) for Colorectal Cancer (first line)	January 2008	August 2009	Partial recommendation	Yes
Avastin (bevacizumab) (first-line), Nexavar (sorafenib) (first-line and second-line), Sutent (sunitinib) (second-line) and Torisel (temsirolimus) (first-line) for the treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma	September 2007[2]	August 2009	Not recommended	Nexavar (sorafenib) - yes Avastin (bevacizumab)-yes Sutent (sunitinib) - yes
Mabthera (rituximab) for first-line treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia	September 2008	July 2009	Partial recommendation	No
Erbitux (cetuximab) for Head and Neck Cancer (squamous cell carcinoma)	September 2008	June 2009	Not Recommended	No
Revlimid (lenalidomide) for Multiple Myeloma	April 2008	June 2009	Partial recommendation	Yes
Sutent (sunitinib) for the first-line treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma	September 2007[2]	March 2009	Partial recommendation	Yes
Tarceva (erlotinib) for the treatment of non- small-cell lung cancer	March 2006	November 2008	Partial recommendation	Yes

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[1] The date NICE commenced work on the appraisal. NICE will also have carried out scoping work for the appraisal before this date.

[2] This is the date on which the Multiple Technology Appraisal (MTA) began for Avastin (bevacizumab) (first-line), Nexavar (sorafenib) (first-line and second-line), Sutent (sunitinib) (first and second-line) and Torisel (temsirolimus) (first-line) for the treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma. The MTA was subsequently split and Sutent (sunitinib) for the first-line treatment of renal cell carcinoma was considered in a separate single technology appraisal.

Complementary Medicine

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1397-8W, on complementary medicine, which complementary or alternative treatments, medicines or therapies the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has *(a)* considered and *(b)* approved for use by NHS clinicians. [321915]

Gillian Merron: A summary of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations relating to complementary and alternative medicines is shown in the following table.

A summary of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations relating to complementary and alternative medicines

Guidance topic	*Publication date*	*Recommendation*
Antenatal care	March 2008	Few complementary therapies have been established as being safe and effective during pregnancy. The following interventions appear to be effective in reducing morning sickness: Ginger P6 acupressure
Multiple Sclerosis	November 2003	There is some evidence to suggest that the following items might be of benefit, although there is insufficient evidence to give more flexible recommendations: Reflexology and massage Fish oils Magnetic field therapy Neural therapy Massage plus body work T'ai chi Multi-modal therapy
Dementia	November 2006	For comorbid agitation, interventions tailored to the person's preferences, skills and abilities should be considered. Options to consider include: Aromatherapy Multisensory stimulation Therapeutic use of music and/or dancing Animal-assisted therapy Massage

A summary of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations relating to complementary and alternative medicines

Guidance topic	*Publication date*	*Recommendation*
Parkinson's disease	June 2006	The Alexander Technique may be offered to benefit people with Parkinson's disease (PD) by helping them to make lifestyle adjustments that affect both the physical nature of the condition and the person's attitude to having PD.
Supportive and palliative care	March 2004	When organising supportive and palliative care services for people with cancer, commissioners and the NHS and voluntary sector providers should work in partnership across a Cancer Network to decide how to best meet the needs of patients for complementary therapies where there is evidence to support their use. As a minimum, high quality information should be made available to patients about complementary therapies and services. Provider organisations should ensure that any practitioner delivering complementary therapies in NHS settings conforms to policies designed to ensure best practice agreed by the Cancer Network.
Hypertension	June 2006	Informing people with hypertension that relaxation therapies can reduce blood pressure and individual patients may wish to pursue these as part of their treatment. However, routine provision by primary care teams is not currently recommended. Examples include: stress management, meditation, cognitive therapies, muscle relaxation and biofeedback.
Depression	October 2009	Although there is evidence that St. John's wort may be of benefit in mild or moderate depression, health care professionals should not prescribe or advise its use by patients because of uncertainty about appropriate doses, variation in the nature of preparations and potential serious interactions with other drugs (including oral contraceptives, anticoagulants and anticonvulsants).
Low back pain	May 2009	Consider offering a course of manual therapy, including spinal manipulation, spinal mobilisation and massage. Treatment may be provided by a range of health professionals including chiropractors, osteopaths, manipulative physiotherapists or doctors who have had specialist training Consider offering a course of acupuncture needling, up to a maximum of 10 sessions over a period of up to 12 weeks Injections of therapeutic substances into the back for non-specific low back pain are not recommended.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of patients treated by the NHS for drug addiction and resident in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency were no longer addicted at the end of their treatment in each of the last five years. [321439]

Gillian Merron: Information is not available in the format requested. National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) data are not collected at the Castle Point constituency level. The NDTMS data available for adults in Essex completing drug treatment free from dependency are as follows:

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Total patients in treatment during the year	2,266	2,590	2,839	3,055
Treatment completed free of dependency	129	168	577	813
Percentage completed free of dependency	6	6	20	27

Note: Data prior to 2005-06 are not robust enough to be reported at local drug action team level.

Greater Manchester

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Manchester, Gorton constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997. [322144]

Ann Keen: The Government have put in place a programme of national health service investment and reform since 1997 to improve service delivery in all parts of the United Kingdom. 93 per cent. of people nationally now rate the NHS as good or excellent. The NHS constitution contains 25 rights and 14 pledges for patients and the public including new rights to be treated within 18 weeks, or be seen by a cancer specialist within two weeks and an NHS health check every five years for those aged 40-74 years.

There is significant evidence that these policies have yielded considerable benefits for the Gorton constituency.

For example:

Figures for December 2009 show that in the Manchester Primary Care Trust (PCT):

87 per cent. of patients whose treatment involved admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

97 per cent. of patients whose treatment did not involve admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

In December 2009, at the Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, 98.0 per cent. of patients spent less than four hours in accident and emergency from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge.

Between September 2002 and September 2008, the number of consultants at the Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has increased from 304 to 366. Between September 2002 and September 2008 the estimated number of nurses has increased from 2,383 to 3,274.

Between September 2001 and September 2008 the number of general practitioners (GP) per 100,000 within the Manchester PCT area has increased from 67.9 to 70.3.

85.6 per cent. of urgent GP referrals to the Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust with suspected cancer are seen by a specialist within two weeks of the referral (as at December 2009).

A £512 million private finance initiative (PFI) scheme to replace many of Central Manchester University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust's existing hospitals into a linked development on the Manchester Royal Infirmary (Oxford Road) site is now complete. It includes:

The new Manchester Royal Eye Hospital, which opened to patients in August 2009;

The new Manchester Royal Infirmary wing, which opened to patients in August 2009;

The new Royal Manchester Children's Hospital opened to patients in June 2009. It brings together the specialist services previously provided at the Booth Hall and Pendlebury Children's

Hospitals. The new children's hospital includes the paediatric intensive care unit which is one of the leading centres in the North West and a paediatric emergency department.

Although statistical information is not available at a local level, Manchester will have also benefitted from national policies in other areas. For example:

Since 1997, gross current expenditure on personal social services has increased by around 70 per cent. in real terms with around 105,000 households now receiving intensive home care and 3,076 new extra care housing units—exceeding the original target of 1,500 new extra care units.

Other strategies currently being implemented are:

Subject to parliamentary approval, the Personal Care at Home Bill will guarantee free personal care for 280,000 people with the highest needs and help around 130,000 people who need home care for the first time to regain their independence.

"Shaping the Future of Care Together" Green Paper, published in July 2009, sets out a vision of a National Care Service for all adults in England which is fair, simple and affordable. The Department has consulted widely on this reform and is currently analysing the responses, which will feed into a White Paper later this year.

The National Carer's Strategy—("Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities")—launched in 2008.

The first National Dementia Strategy was published in February 2009.

"Valuing People Now"—a three year strategy for people with learning disabilities published in January 2009.

"New Horizons: A Shared Vision for Mental Health"—launched in December 2009—to maintain improvements in mental health services combined with a new cross-Government approach to promoting public mental health.

Since 1998, there are now 2.4 million fewer smokers in England as a result of the Government's comprehensive tobacco control strategy which has a measurable impact on reducing smoking prevalence.

Child obesity levels are reducing due to the efforts of families across England, supported by the Government's obesity strategy. In 2008, 13.9 per cent. of children (aged two to 10) in England were classified as obese, compared with 17.3 per cent. in 2005.

Overall, life expectancy at birth for men has increased from 74.5 years (1995-97 data) to 77.7 years (2006-08 data) while for women, life expectancy at birth has increased from 79.6 years (1995-97 data) to 81.9 years (2006-08 data).

Health Centres: Christchurch

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1115W, on health centres: Christchurch, (1) on what date discussions with the landlord to vary the terms of the lease began; and when he expects them to be concluded; [322147]

(2) on what date the repairs notice was served; what the expected date of completion of the repairs is; and what estimate has been made of their cost. [322148]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Attempts have been made since the property became surplus to dispose of the Department's interest, subject to the use restrictions contained within the leasehold agreement.

Since the service of Notice of Repairs on 5 August 2008, the Department has been in discussion with the landlord on the possibility on varying the terms of the lease to relax the use restrictions without any progress. However, following a meeting with the landlord in late February 2010 it was agreed that further work would be undertaken to establish the feasibility of the most appropriate alternative use for the property after which further discussions would take place with the landlord. The work will involve a number of external organisations and is expected to take up to four months. Every effort will be made to conclude subsequent discussions with the landlord as soon as possible.

Following the service of the Repairs Notice there have been discussions with the landlord as to the extent of the works required having regard to the terms of the lease. The extent of the works will also now be dependent on the outcome of the discussions with the landlord with regard to alternative uses. Estimates of the costs will be made at that stage.

Health Services: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS *(a)* dentists and *(b)* GPs were practising in Birmingham in each year since 1997. [321534]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. However, information on the number of dentists with national health service activity for the Birmingham area by primary care trust (PCT) for 1997-2009 is shown in the following table:

Number of dentists with NHS activity as at 31 March

	North Birmingham PCT	*Eastern Birmingham PCT*	*Birmingham East and North PCT*	*South Birmingham PCT*	*Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT*	*Total*
1997	47	64	—	180	98	389
1998	45	67	—	189	101	402
1999	47	65	—	178	109	399
2000	51	71	—	184	112	418
2001	50	77	—	188	131	446
2002	53	76	—	179	136	444
2003	53	78	—	188	134	453
2004	57	83	—	197	145	482
2005	54	87	—	196	142	479
2006	60	100	—	210	151	521
2007	—	—	144	157	138	439
2008	—	—	155	167	139	461
2009	—	—	177	174	142	493

Notes:
1. The numbers of NHS dentists, in Birmingham, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 are based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006.
2. The numbers of dentists with NHS activity during the years ending 31 March, 2007, 2008 and 2009 are based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006.
3. Birmingham East and North PCT was formed on 1 October 2006 from a complete merger of Eastern Birmingham PCT and North Birmingham PCT.
Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care
NHS Dental Services of the NHS Business Services Authority

The number of general practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) for the Birmingham area by PCT for the period 1997-2008 is shown in the following table:

	Headcount by year						
	Birmingham Health Authority (HA)	*North Birmingham PCT*	*Eastern Birmingham PCT*	*South Birmingham PCT*	*Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT*	*Birmingham East and North PCT*	*Total*
1997	590	—	—	—	—	—	590
1998	603	—	—	—	—	—	603
1999	614	—	—	—	—	—	614
2000	610	—	—	—	—	—	610
2001	608	—	—	—	—	—	608
2002	—	91	136	232	149	—	608
2003	—	102	135	236	177	—	650
2004	—	99	144	247	159	—	649
2005	—	106	146	260	168	—	680
2006	—	—	—	263	176	236	675
2007	—	—	—	267	176	248	691
2008	—	—	—	274	175	261	710

Note:
Prior to the formation of PCTs, the area of Birmingham was serviced by Birmingham HA. Birmingham HA may not map completely into the separate PCTs beyond 2001, but has been displayed here as background and appears consistent with subsequent aggregated PCT figures.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care.

Hearing Impaired: Health Services

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have undertaken training courses in audiology in *(a)* England and *(b)* Gloucestershire in each of the last five years; how many people he expects to undertake such courses in future years; and if he will make a statement. [321857]

Ann Keen: The number of training places in audiology in England and the South West Strategic Health Authority (SHA) for each of the last five years is shown in the following table. The number of planned training commissions for 2009-10 is also shown.

	Audiology training commissions					Planned commissions
England	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Audiological Scientists	22	27	26	16	18	20
Audiology BSc	180	139	206	187	208	215
South West SHA						
Audiological Scientists	0	0	0	0	0	0
Audiology BSc	16	30	29	31	30	30

Sources:
Multi-Professional Education and Training Fund
SHA Quarterly Returns

Local national health service organisations are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health community and plan the workforce they need. SHAs are responsible for commissioning the correct number of training places to maintain a work force to meet the needs of the local population.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of audiology services for children in *(a)* England and *(b)* Gloucestershire, with particular reference to the number of practitioners; and if he will make a statement. [321858]

Ann Keen: The Department in its "Transforming Services for Children with Hearing Difficulty and their Families: a good practice guide", outlined the work force roles required to deliver different levels of service. Within Modernising Scientific Careers, training programmes are being developed to reflect these work force requirements and we are working with strategic health authorities to ensure a smooth transition.

Hospices: Charities

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason the Care Quality Commission requires small charities providing hospice places to produce 75 policies in order to achieve registration. [322149]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Registration allows the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to give the public assurance that wherever they receive care or treatment, they can be confident that essential, common standards of safety and quality are being met. CQC strives to operate in accordance with better regulation principles, particularly to minimise regulatory burden.

The CQC has advised us that it does not require a set number of policies from providers seeking registration. It does, however, require that providers have policies in place relating to the management of their organisation, and can demonstrate that they have a good infrastructure in place to deliver safe care.

Under the current Care Standards Act 2000, CQC refers any queries about which policies might be appropriate to the list of suggested policies in the National Minimum Standards for Independent Health. This was published in February 2002 following extensive consultation with the sector in 2001.

The CQC is now in the process of registering all providers of health and adult social care under a new system of registration in line with the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

This new system will apply to independent health care providers, including hospices, from 1 October 2010. CQC is intending to send high level guidance on how to apply for registration to hospices shortly. The CQC's guidance about compliance which sets out how providers can comply with the new registration regulations is already available on its website at:

www.cqc.org.uk/publications.cfm?fde_id=13512

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to exempt charitable hospices from the requirement to pay registration fees to the Care Quality Commission. [322150]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Registration provides assurance to users of registered services that the care that a provider delivers at least meets essential levels of safety and quality. It is a standard principle that organisations that are regulated should meet the cost of regulation. The Care Quality Commission is responsible for setting the level of fees that are paid by different providers and is required to consult on these fees.

Hospitals: Police

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals with accident and emergency departments provide anonymised data to their local *(a)* police and *(b)* crime and disorder reduction partnership. [321964]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There are 103 accident and emergency departments, which are currently collecting and sharing anonymised data with local partners, in England. In most cases, these data are being shared with the crime and disorder reduction partnerships. However, in some cases data are being shared directly with the police.

MMR Vaccine

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there has been an investigation of purported ethical approval for blood tests funded by legal aid to detect the presence of the measles virus carried out on claimants and controls in research in connection with concluded MMR vaccine litigation. [321636]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 11 March 2010]:* We understand that the tests in question were carried out as part of now concluded litigation that followed claims that the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine was linked to autism. It appears that the tests were organised by the legal teams involved and the Department played no part in these arrangements.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assumptions his Department is asking NHS organisations to make in their financial planning for *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [320781]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The NHS Operating Framework for England 2010-11, published in December 2009, advised primary care trust (PCTs) to allow for flat real revenue allocations growth for the years 2011-12 and 2012-13. The national health service was also to expect the full deployment during the years of 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2013-14 of any surplus generated by the PCT and strategic health authority (SHA) sector in 2009-10. Alongside this SHAs were to ensure that all PCTs in their region did not recurrently commit the totality of their recurred funding, such that at least 2 per cent. of recurrent funding was only committed non-recurrently by 2013-14.

In addition the Operating Framework stated that the uplift in tariff for 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 will be set at a maximum of 0 per cent.

It also confirmed that the NHS needs to identify £15 billion to £20 billion of efficiency savings by the end of 2013-14 and specifically set an aggregate target reduction of 30 per cent. in management and agency costs by 2013-14 for each SHA.

These savings will remain with the NHS, enabling it to continue to deliver service improvements. There will be no cuts to NHS front line spending.

As an interim step, "NHS 2010-15 From Good to Great", published in December 2009, set an interim challenge of £10 billion efficiency savings by 2012-13.

Patient Choice Scheme: Mentally Ill

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of whether his Department's guidance to Extended Choice Network providers not to treat patients with unstable psychiatric disorders discriminates against patients with mental illness. [321762]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Patient welfare and safety is a priority for patients being treated under the Extended Choice Network (ECN) as it is across the national health service.

The ECN rules are in place to govern the referral of patients by general practitioners (GPs) to elective care facilities operated by independent providers. The rules are also in place to help safeguard patient safety. NHS patients referred to ECN facilities are assessed before they receive treatment to ensure that they are treated at a hospital that has the facilities and level of care required to meet their needs. The ECN rules state that ECN providers should not treat a patient who has a current and significantly unstable psychiatric disorder where the approved facility cannot reasonably be expected to accommodate the patient's needs.

ECN providers are not permitted under the ECN rules to exclude patients who have a history of mental illness and who are currently in a stable condition whether on medication or not. A GP will use their clinical judgment and knowledge of the patient and their medical history to determine this. However, many of the hospitals in the ECN network do not have the psychiatric facilities or trained psychiatric staff required to safely care for a patient with a current and significantly unstable mental illness. For this reason current and significantly unstable mental illness is included as a co-morbidity in the ECN exclusion criteria.

ECN providers are required to take their obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act into account when listing services available for ECN.

ECN and Free Choice Network have given patients a greater choice of healthcare providers and helped to reduce waiting times. As at 30 January 2010, more than 150,000 procedures have been performed under the Extended Choice and Free Choice networks.

Prescription Drugs

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 553W, for what reason the views of the National Patient Safety Agency were not sought before publication of his Department's consultation on proposals to implement generic substitution in primary care. [322158]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: During 2009, the Department undertook a series of meetings with key national stakeholders, representing general practitioners, community pharmacists, and manufacturers, to discuss the commitment in the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS) agreement in England. These national stakeholders were the General Practitioners Committee of the British Medical Association, the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee, the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry, the British Generic Manufacturers Association and the Ethical Medicines Industry Group. We recognise that we could not have meetings with all stakeholders that might have views on the PPRS commitment and this informed our decision to hold a full public consultation, which gives all stakeholders the opportunity to input.

Patient safety is at the core of the proposals. Substitution will not be permissible where it may pose a potential risk to patient safety. Option 1 involves no change to the current arrangements. Both options 2 and 3, which involve changes, would give the flexibility to create a list of drugs that is either exempt from any arrangements (option 2), or included in any arrangements (option 3), which allows implementation to take account of whether there are any general clinical or patient safety concerns with regard to interchange between different manufacturers' products. Furthermore, both options 2 and 3 also maintain prescribers' clinical autonomy to tailor prescribing to their individual patients' clinical needs, through the ability of prescribers to opt in or out of the generic substitution arrangements for any prescription item. Therefore, patients would continue to receive a specific manufacturer's product where their treating clinician judges that there is clinical need.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason his Department opted to undertake a partial impact assessment on its proposals relating to automatic generic substitution; and what his Department's practice is on the preparation of *(a)* full and *(b)* partial impact assessments on matters which concern patient safety. [322159]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Generic substitution is not automatic under any of the options which are currently being consulted on and patient safety is at the core of these proposals.

It is good practice to issue a consultation impact assessment (previously known as a partial impact assessment) alongside a consultation paper and to seek views from stakeholders on its content, so these can be considered in the final impact assessment later in the policy development process.

Radiotherapy

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of cancer patients in England have received radiotherapy treatment in the last 12 months. [321572]

Ann Keen: It is not currently possible to calculate a reliable estimate of the proportion of cancer patients receiving radiotherapy.

The Department is working with the national health service to implement a comprehensive and robust data collection and monitoring system to support the implementation later this year of the commitment that no patient should wait longer than 31-days for subsequent radiotherapy, as set out in the Cancer Reform Strategy.

Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [321474]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government have put in place a programme of national health service investment and reform since 1997 to improve service delivery in all parts of the United Kingdom. 93 per cent. of people nationally now rate the NHS as good or excellent. The NHS Constitution contains 25 rights and 14 pledges for patients and the public including new rights to be treated within 18 weeks, or be seen by a cancer specialist within two weeks and a NHS Health Check every five years for those aged 40-74 years.

There is significant evidence that these policies have yielded considerable benefits for the Stroud constituency. For example:

Figures for December 2009 show that in Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust (PCT):

91 per cent. of patients whose treatment involved admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

97 per cent. of patients whose treatment did not involve admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

In December 2009, at Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, 97 per cent. of patients spent less than four hours in accident and emergency from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge.

Between September 2007 and September 2008, the number of consultants at Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has increased from 272 to 287. Between September 1997 and September 2008, the estimated number of nurses has increased from 2,320 to 2,407.

Between September 2001 and September 2008 the number of general practitioners (GPs) per 100,000 within Gloucestershire PCT has increased from 61.6 to 68.7.

97.5 per cent. of urgent GP referrals to Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust with suspected cancer are seen by a specialist within two weeks of the referral.

A new GP health centre opened at the Gloucester Health Access Centre, Gloucester in May 2009. It is open between 8am and 8pm, seven days a week, 365 days a year, offering appointments and walk-in services for any member of the public; patients may also choose to register at the health centre if more convenient than their existing practice, or use the service while remaining registered at another practice.

There is a private finance initiative (PFI) scheme in the area that serves this constituency: a £32 million PFI scheme at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital opened in September 2005.

Although statistical information is not available at a local level, Stroud will have also benefited from national policies in other areas. For example:

Since 1997, gross current expenditure on personal social services has increased by around 70 per cent. in real terms with around 105,000 households now receiving intensive home care and 3,076 new extra care housing units—exceeding the original target of 1,500 new extra care units.

Other strategies currently being implemented are:

Subject to parliamentary approval, the Personal Care at Home Bill will guarantee free personal care for 280,000 people with the highest needs and help around 130,000 people who need home care for the first time to regain their independence.

"Shaping the Future of Care Together" Green Paper, published in July 2009, sets out a vision of a National Care Service for all adults in England which is fair, simple and affordable. The Department has consulted widely on this reform and is currently analysing the responses, which will feed into a White Paper later this year.

The National Carer's Strategy—"Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities" launched in 2008.

The first National Dementia Strategy was published in February 2009.

"Valuing People Now"—a three-year strategy for people with learning disabilities was published in January 2009.

"New Horizons—A Shared Vision for Mental Health" was launched in December 2009 to maintain improvements in mental health services combined with a new cross-Government approach to promoting public mental health.

Since 1998, there are now 2.4 million fewer smokers in England as a result of the Government's comprehensive tobacco control strategy which has a measurable impact on reducing smoking prevalence.

Child obesity levels are reducing due to the efforts of families across England, supported by the Government's obesity strategy. In 2008, 13.9 per cent. of children (aged 2 to 10) in England were classified as obese, compared with 17.3 per cent. in 2005.

Overall, life expectancy at birth for men has increased from 74.5 years (1995-1997 data) to 77.7 years (2006-08 data) while for women, life expectancy at birth has increased from 79.6 years (1995-97 data) to 81.9 years (2006-08 data).

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 15 March 2010

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 862W, on departmental internet, what the cost was of the website redesign. [321925]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 888W.

East of England

Andrew Selous: To ask the Prime Minister which constituencies he has visited in the East of England in 2009; and what the date was of each such visit. [322383]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 76WS. A list of my UK visits for 2009-10 will be published in the usual way.

Envoys and Special Representatives

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister which *(a)* envoys and *(b)* special representatives personally appointed by him have (i) resigned and (ii) been dismissed. [320719]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the Press Notices issued by my office, which can be found at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/press-notices

A current list of Government appointed tsars, envoys, champions and ambassadors has been published on page Ev 41 of the Public Administration Select Committee's Eighth Report of Session 2009-10: Goats and Tsars: Ministerial and other appointments from outside Parliament. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

Intelligence Services

Mr. Davey: To ask the Prime Minister if he will publish the *(a)* current and *(b)* former guidelines issued by his Department to officers of those intelligence services which fall within his responsibilities on interviewing prisoners abroad and on co-operating with interviews conducted by other countries; and if he will make a statement. [321501]

The Prime Minister: The consolidated guidance to intelligence officers and service personnel on standards during the detention and interviewing of detainees overseas will be published shortly. We will not be publishing previous documents.

Reading Berkshire

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Prime Minister (1) when he informed the hon. Member for Reading, West of his visit to Reading on 1 March 2010; [321540]

(2) when he informed Reading borough council of his visit to Reading on 1 March 2010; [321541]

(3) when he informed Thames Valley police of his visit to Reading on 1 March 2010. [321542]

The Prime Minister: For security reasons, my engagements are announced as and when appropriate.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has made a recent assessment of the level of the administrative burden on the agriculture industry. [322311]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In DEFRA's recent Simplification Plan 'Simplifying the Business Environment: Driving Burdens Down', published in December 2009, DEFRA reported that it was on target to achieve a 20 per cent. reduction in administrative burdens by May 2010. The report details measures that affect the agriculture industry. Between the simplification measures already implemented and other activities currently in progress, we anticipate DEFRA will meet and may even exceed the 25 per cent. target by May 2010.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage retailers to purchase domestically-produced agricultural products. [322312]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The purchasing decisions of retailers are a commercial matter for them, and EU state aid guidelines on advertising specifically preclude publicly subsidised "Buy British" campaigns.

However, we recognise the importance of providing consumers with information on a food's production and its provenance to enable them to make informed choices about the food they buy. That is why we have been encouraging retailers to comply with the Food Standard Agency's best practice guide on origin labelling, and recent evidence from the agency has shown that compliance has increased in recent years. More specifically, the Pig Meat Supply Chain Task Force which we established bringing together producers, processors, retailers, the food service industry, and a consumer representative has developed a voluntary industry code on the labelling of pork and pork products. This code, which was launched at the National Farmers Union conference last month, covers origin labelling, the use of breed names on labels and product definitions. Support from both the retail and food service sector has been strong.

Retailers are putting in place policies aimed at sourcing more domestically-produced food and drink products. This in turn provides opportunities for UK farmers to capture a greater market share by becoming more competitive.

We also appreciate the need to improve our food and drink producers' access to market in order to meet the growing demand for more food with a regional provenance. We have done this by providing funding for a range of measures including "meet the buyer" events with retailers and the encouragement of food hubs and shared distribution facilities.

Biodiversity

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the UK's progress towards reaching the EU target to halt biodiversity loss by 2010; and if he will make a statement. [321448]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The European Commission and member states are currently compiling data to allow an assessment of progress against the targets in the EU Biodiversity Action Plan. We measure our progress towards the EU's 2010 target to halt biodiversity loss through the UK Biodiversity Indicators. Progress was reported in the National Statistics publication 'Biodiversity Indicators in Your Pocket 2007', which was updated most recently in April 2009. Statistics for wild birds were updated in October 2009 and those for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are updated monthly.

Overall, 23 (72 per cent.) of the 32 measures that comprise the UK Biodiversity Indicators are "improving" or show "little or no overall change" since the year 2000. In particular, almost 91.2 per cent. of SSSIs are in favourable or recovering condition, agri-environment schemes are leading to significant improvements, and we have made great strides with the Marine and Coastal Access Act.

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to discuss with the devolved administrations his Department's policy on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy after 2013. [322310]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA have ongoing discussions with the devolved Administrations on a wide range of agricultural issues of shared interest, including the UK's ambitions for the future of the common agriculture policy after 2013.

Dangerous Dogs

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people resident in each local authority area were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (i) between the date of entry into force of the Act and 1997 and (ii) in 2009. [321963]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, England and Wales 1991 to 1997 and 2008 (latest available) has been placed in the House Library.

Court Proceedings data are not available at local authority area level.

The Ministry of Justice advise that court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication in the autumn of 2010.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 924-25W, on departmental information officers, what the *(a)* title and *(b)* division is of each of the seven embedded communicators working within the business; and on what date each of these positions was first established. [320912]

Dan Norris: The information requested is as follows:

Title	*Work area*	*Date established*
Stakeholder Engagement Communications	Food Chain Programme	Summer 2009
Communications manager	Public Value Programme	Autumn 2009
Communications manager	Performance Programme	Spring 2009
Communication manager	UK location Programme	Early 2008
Communications adviser	Customer and Citizen insight team	Summer 2009
Communication manager	Chief Information Officer's team	Spring 2008
Segmentation and Consumer Insight	Sustainable Behaviours Unit	Early 2007

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of contracts with public relations consultancies was for each non-departmental public body within his Department's remit in each of the last five years. [320489]

Dan Norris: This information is not held centrally and there is no specific procurement category or account for expenditure with public relations consultancies. To obtain the information for each of the last five years from each non-departmental public body would incur disproportionate cost.

Greater Manchester

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Manchester, Gorton constituency, the effects on that constituency of the policies of his Department and its predecessors since 1997. [322140]

Dan Norris: Due to the broad nature of the question and the wide range of DEFRA and its predecessor's policies implemented in Gorton, it is not possible to provide a detailed answer in the form requested.

Gorton is obliged through statute to comply with central Government legislation. DEFRA's policy responsibilities are summarised in its departmental strategic objectives (DSOs) that have been agreed with the Treasury:

To promote a society that is adapting to the effects of climate change, through a national programme of action and a contribution to international action.

To promote a healthy, resilient, productive and diverse natural environment.

To promote sustainable, low carbon and resource efficient patterns of consumption and production.

To promote an economy and a society that are resilient to environmental risk.

To champion sustainable development.

To promote a thriving farming and food sector with an improving net environmental impact.

To encourage a sustainable, secure and healthy food supply.

To provide socially and economically sustainable rural communities.

To be a respected Department delivering efficient and high quality services and outcomes.

DEFRA publishes annual departmental reports which set out progress against its public service agreement targets and DSOs. The 2009 report is available at:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/how/deprep/2009-report.htm

Past reports are available online in the National Archives.

For information on a specific DEFRA policy in Gorton, the Government office for the North West is able to provide information on implementation and the benefits to the area.

Textiles: Waste Disposal

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many tonnes of *(a)* carpet and *(b)* mattresses were sent to landfill in each of the last five years; and what proportion of annual landfill each such figure represents. [322023]

Dan Norris *[holding answer 12 March 2010]:* DEFRA does not hold this information. The Environment Agency publishes data on wastes to landfill from permitted site returns, recorded by the European Waste Code (EWC). The EWC classification does not allow the identification of individual product categories, such as those requested.

Wetlands: Conservation

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons Natural England has declined to consider evidence on damage to the Lymington Marshes Ramsar site presented by the Lymington River Association; and if he will make a statement. [322345]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Natural England has not declined to consider evidence presented by the Lymington River Association on damage to the Lymington Marshes Ramsar site.

This evidence was presented as part of the Wightlink/Natural England stakeholder engagement exercise which finished on 5 February. Natural England is currently reviewing the points made by all those who responded, and will respond to the Lymington River Association in the next few weeks to enable discussion at a meeting which has already been agreed.

Wildlife: Birds

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department consulted with *(a)* the RSPB, *(b)* the Hawk and Owl Trust and *(c)* other animal welfare groups on its assessment of the European Eagle Owl as an invasive non-native species which should not be introduced into the wild. [321914]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Between November 2007 and January 2008, DEFRA and the Welsh Assembly Government held a public consultation on proposals to review schedule 9 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 ('the Act'), and to ban the sale of certain non-native species in England in Wales. Schedule 9 lists species which, under section 14 of the Act, are prohibited from being introduced into the wild.

The European eagle owl was included amongst the species being consulted upon, and on 21 December 2009 the Government announced that it would be added to schedule 9 in April this year.

This was a general public consultation and organisations directly contacted about it included the RSPB and the Hawk and Owl Trust as well as a number other organisations concerned with animal welfare and conservation. The full list of consultees is available on the DEFRA website.

As part of the process for collating evidence to support policy decisions on management of invasive species, full risk assessments are being developed for a number of species. When risk assessments (including that for the eagle owl) are published for expert comment, the GB Non-native Species Secretariat notifies all the stakeholders on its database who have shown an interest in invasive non-native species policy. This includes the RSPB and a wide range of other organisations; however the Hawk and Owl Trust is not recorded among the organisations in the database.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on office refurbishments in each of the last 10 years. [320469]

Mr. Woodward: The amount spent on office refurbishment is not separately costed or invoiced and could be answered only at disproportionate cost.

Expenditure on all maintenance and minor works for each financial year since 1999-2000 is shown in the following table. These figures include the cost of refurbishments, fit out of new accommodation, reactive and planned maintenance, health and safety works, repairs to mechanical and electrical systems, and associated professional fees.

	£000
1999-2000	1,085
2000-01	1,465
2001-02	2,211
2002-03	2,131

	£000
2003-04	2,057
2004-05	2,727
2005-06	2,234
2006-07	2,600
2007-08	1,792
2008-09	2,760

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* disciplinary and *(b)* capability procedures have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed in his Department in each of the last five years; how much time on average was taken to complete each type of procedure in each such year; how many and what proportion of his Department's staff were subject to each type of procedure in each such year; and how many and what proportion of each type of procedure resulted in the dismissal of the member of staff. [320626]

Paul Goggins: Details for 2009 and 2010 are shown in the following table.

A breakdown of the information required for the years 2005 to 2008 is not held centrally. We are unable to specify the time taken to complete each type of procedure as this is not recorded.

		Number
	2009	*2010*
Disciplinary	67	21
Capability	4	5
Initiated	71	26
Completed	69	21
Dismissal	2	0

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of travel for his staff between England and Northern Ireland was in each of the last six years. [321269]

Paul Goggins: The cost of flights and ferries for staff from my Department between England and Northern Ireland in each of the last three years is shown in the following table. We do not have complete information for the other three years.

Other expenditure associated with travelling between England and Northern Ireland, such as rail or taxi fares to the airport, can be provided only at disproportionate cost. All travel by staff is undertaken in line with departmental policy.

	£
2008-09	760,184
2007-08	790,947
2006-07	991,808

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1489W, on the Afghan Campaign Medal, whether he has agreed to the proposed change to the criteria for Aero-Medical personnel Afghan campaign medals; and whether the service chiefs have approved the proposed change. [321623]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence is aware of the situation regarding Aero-Medical personnel and their eligibility to receive the Afghanistan Campaign Medal. The eligibility of this group and others is currently under active consideration. We hope to reach a conclusion shortly.

Aircraft Carriers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to his speech in Portsmouth on 25 February 2010, what recommendations of a future defence review could lead to the cancellation of the future aircraft carrier programme. [321413]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 11 March 2010]*: I cannot foresee an outcome of the Strategic Defence Review that could lead to the cancellation of the future carrier programme.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of whether the armed forces are able to undertake a military operation on the scale and complexity of that undertaken for the Falklands War. [321374]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We take our responsibility to defend the Falkland Islands and the other UK Overseas Territories in the South Atlantic very seriously indeed. We maintain a permanent garrison in the Falkland Islands in order to deter any aggression and regularly deploy other military assets to the region to demonstrate military capability and political resolve. The level of forces required is reviewed regularly. We retain both the commitment and the capability to defend the UK Overseas Territories in the South Atlantic.

Armed Forces: Drinking Water

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if his Department will provide funding for production of the water purification systems ordered by the US administration for deployment in prototype form to Haiti and Afghanistan. [321376]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have not received any requests from the Haiti or Afghanistan authorities, or from the US administration, for UK funding for production of water purification systems.

Armed Forces: Food

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the nutritional value of food provided to military personnel serving in combat operations abroad. [320751]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Military Dietary Reference Values published by QinetiQ in 2008 are used as the basis of input for in-barrack feeding in the UK, as the nutritional basis for operational feeding, the future development of operational ration packs, and as a benchmark when assessing the current nutritional value of armed forces feeding.

As part of the benchmarking process, the Surgeon General-sponsored Armed Forces Feeding Project is conducting an evaluation of the actual food and energy intake, and the efficacy of nutritional education, in trained military personnel while in-barracks and on operations. Gender, ethnic and cultural differences in relation to nutritional requirements, intake and dietary habits will also be investigated. The study is due to report in December 2010.

Armed Forces: Private Education

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on education in independent schools for the families of members of the armed forces in each of the last 12 years. [321669]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 11 March 2010]*: Details are only held for financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09. Financial information for earlier years prior to the implementation of the Joint Personnel Administration System is held on single service legacy systems, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In the armed forces, the allowance paid to service personnel to fund the education of their children in independent schools is known as the Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA). The purpose of the CEA is to allow children of armed forces personnel to achieve a stable education against a background of frequent parental postings both at home, and overseas.

In financial year 2007-08, the total cost to the Ministry of Defence was £162,189,373. This includes tax and national insurance on the benefit paid to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs by the Department on behalf of individuals. In financial year 2008-09, the total cost to the MOD was £172,844,735.

Limits apply in respect of the amount that can be claimed per school term by the service person, and all claims are subject to a parental minimum contribution of 10 per cent. per child, per term.

Armed Forces: Rescue Services

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what other aircraft his Department has with the capability equivalent to a Nimrod MR2 in *(a)* co-ordinating major off-shore incidents and multi-agency rescues and *(b)* locating vessels that are in distress during adverse weather and low-light conditions. [321325]

Bill Rammell: The Aeronautical Air Rescue Co-Ordination Centre (ARCC), based at RAF Kinloss, is responsible for co-ordinating major off-shore incidents and multi-agency rescues. The ARCC works in consort with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, an Executive agency of the Department for Transport, who has a statutory duty under the coastguard Act 1925 for the initiation and co-ordination of civil maritime search and rescue within the United Kingdom Search and Rescue Region. All requests for assistance from the other emergency services throughout the United Kingdom—police, fire, ambulance and coastguard—are handled by the ARCC.

An on the scene co-ordinator may be designated, if required, by the ARCC. If appropriate, this could be an RAF aircraft. All large aircraft are capable of contributing to a search and rescue operation and are equipped with the long and short-range radios required to communicate with the ARCC. The UK has a range of air assets fitted with radars that can be used to support search and rescue tasks in adverse weather and low-light conditions over water. Additionally C-130 and Sea King Mk 3/3A aircraft can carry crew members equipped with night vision goggles.

Armed Forces: Reserve Forces

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of the membership of the *(a)* Territorial Army, *(b)* Royal Navy Reserve, *(c)* Royal Marine Reserve and *(d)* Royal Auxiliary Air Force was available for deployment on the most recent date for which figures are available. [314473]

Bill Rammell: Availability for mobilisation is dependent on a number of factors, in particular which section of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 is being used to make a call-out order. Therefore, while reservists may be unavailable for mobilisation under one section of the Act, they will be available under another. This effectively means that nearly all reservists remain available for mobilisation, dependent upon the nature of the operation.

Army: Lost Property

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many army weapons have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last 12 months. [319720]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Secretary of State for Defence gave on 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 419-20W, to the hon. Member for Dunfermline and West Fife (Willie Rennie).

Army: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* required, *(b)* actual and *(c)* fit-for-task strength is of each corps of the Army; [312658]

(2) what the *(a)* required, *(b)* actual and *(c)* fit for task strength of each corps of the Army (i) was in 1997 and (ii) is in 2010. [312709]

Bill Rammell: Manning in the Army is currently strong. As at 1 January 2010, the trained strength of the Army, including full-time reserve service personnel, was 101,500. This is the highest figure since 1 January 2006. This good position is due to a greater number of recruits entering training and passing out into the Field Army, coupled with an improvement in retention. While this may be attributed in part to the economic climate, a combination of financial incentives and other retention measures have also had an impact. In September 1998 trained strength was 100,490.

In the following table "required strength" and "actual strength" figures are shown as "funded liability" and "trained strength" respectively.

The latest liability figures are as at 1 January 2010. Comparative figures from 1997 are no longer available. The earliest liability data held are as at 1 September 1998.

1 January 2010 figures have been taken from the Army Personnel Statistics Report (APSR). APSR data is derived from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system.

Figures for the Regular Army are as follows:

	1 September 1998		*1 January 2010*	
Organisation	*Funded liability*	*Trained strength*[1]	*Funded liability*	*Trained strength*[1]
Staff	687	710	763	840
Royal Armoured Corps	5,954	5,680	5,772	5,880
Royal Artillery	8,605	8,020	7,476	7,610
Royal Engineers	8,564	8,640	9,529	9,480
Royal Signals	9,101	8,210	8,319	7,570
Infantry	27,242	25,020	24,519	24,720
Army Air Corps	1,669	1,540	2,047	2,140
Royal Army Chaplains Department	144	140	148	140
Royal Logistics Corps	16,240	15,360	15,848	15,170
Royal Army Medical Corps	2,684	2,460	3,190	3,060
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	10,054	9,780	9,820	9,700
Adjutant General's Corps				
Provost	[2]6,915	[2]7,090	1,756	1,700
Staff and Personnel Support	[2]—	[2]—	3,911	3,650
Military Provost Service	[2]—	[2]—	101	100
Educational and Training Services	[2]—	[2]—	344	330
Army Legal Services	[2]—	[2]—	114	120
Unknown[3]	[2]—	[2]—	0	20
Royal Army Veterinary Corps	174	130	222	330
Small Arms School Corps	138	140	151	150
Royal Army Dentistry Corps	465	350	380	436
Intelligence Corps	1,191	1,130	1,648	1,470
Army Physical Training Corps	388	390	448	490
Queen Alexandra's Royal Auxiliary Nursing Corps	870	670	1,136	900
Corps of Army Music	1,177	1,060	901	810

[1] Trained strength figures are rounded.

[2] Indicates brace.

[3] These are trained members of the AGC who, due to data input errors in the JPA system, are not allocated to a sub Regimental Corps.

"Fit for Task" has been interpreted as fit to deploy for any form of duty on deployment, including personnel listed as having limited deployability. Data are calculated from Personnel Unable to Deploy (PUD) which is derived from unit returns and includes Gurkha manpower. As at 1 January 2010, Infantry Fit for Task strength was 20,439. Royal Armoured Corps Fit for Task strength was 4,475. No Fit for Task data are available prior to 2007. Similar figures for other corps are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Defence Academy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what part of his Department is to provide the support for operational design presently given by the Defence Academy's Advanced Research and Assessment Group following its closure, with particular reference to operational support for UK intervention in Afghanistan. [321472]

Bill Rammell: The Defence Academy's Research and Assessment Branch (R and AB) formally known as Advanced Research and Assessment Group has never provided extensive or critical support to operational design.

The Ministry of Defence Operations Directorate, which comprises both civilians and military staff, has and will continue to provide advice to Ministers and senior officers and officials within MOD and across Government on strategy and policy for operations. In the case of Afghanistan, the Operations Directorate works closely with other teams both within MOD and across other Government Departments, e.g. Department for International Development, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Cabinet Office, in providing advice.

Departmental Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [320415]

Mr. Kevan Jones: No Ministers have received any coaching in foreign languages over the past 12 months. Information on civil servants is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many full-time equivalent staff of each grade are employed by his Department to assist special advisers. [321133]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The two special advisers in the Ministry of Defence are supported by one full-time civil servant at band C2 level.

Departmental Vetting

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions applications for employment in *(a)* the Ministry of Defence and *(b)* the Armed Forces have not passed beyond vetting procedures due to (i) suspected al-Qaeda sympathies and (ii) other suspected extremist views in each year since 1997. [318337]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding information for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

Ex-servicemen: Prisoners

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what methodology his Department uses to determine the number of veterans in prison in England and Wales. [321207]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of veterans in prison in England and Wales, which has been estimated at just over 2,200, was determined by matching a database of all remand and sentenced prisoners aged 18 and over from the Ministry of Justice, around 81,000 offenders as at November 2009, against a database of Service leavers (Regulars only) from my Department, some 1.3 million records. The variables available for matching were surname, forename, middle name, date of birth and gender.

The full report of the matching by the Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) is available in the Library of the House or the following website:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&thiscontent=540&pubType=3&date=2010-01-25&disText=Single%20Report&from=historic&topDate=2010-01-25&PublishTime=16:00:00

Met Office

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how often the Met Office Review Group has met in the last 12 months. [321861]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Operational Efficiency Programme Met Office Review Group has met regularly in undertaking the review in the last 12 months.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department's officials next plan to meet the Shareholder Executive to discuss the future of the Met Office. [321862]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Ministry of Defence officials and the Shareholder Executive meet on a regular basis to discuss the future of the Met Office. The next formal Review Group meeting is due in May 2010.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there have been any changes in membership of the Met Office Review Group since it was established. [321863]

Mr. Kevan Jones: No. Membership of the Met Office Review Group has remained the same since it was established and comprises of officials from Ministry of Defence, Met Office, Shareholder Executive and HM Treasury.

Met Office: Pay

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Met Office staff are paid more than £100,000 per year. [321643]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Details of the remuneration of the Met Office's Executive Directors are disclosed in the Remuneration Report in the Met Office Annual Report and Accounts. This shows that in 2008-09, four members of the Executive were paid more than £100,000. Outside of the Executive, no Met Office staff are paid more than £100,000.

Middle East: Navy

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will use the assets of the Royal Navy to protect Free Gaza ships in international waters. [321680]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 11 March 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr. Ivan Lewis) on 11 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 428W.

Nuclear Submarines

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the concept design for the Trident successor submarines to be finalised; and what effect the delay in this process will have on the timetable for the delivery of the Trident successor submarines. [321415]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 11 March 2010]:* We need a few more months to ensure we take design decisions based on robust information. We do not expect this extension of the concept phase to affect the timetable for delivery of the successor submarine.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of claimants of employment and support allowance who have moved into paid employment in the last 12 months. [321782]

Jonathan Shaw: Specific information on employment and support allowance is not available. However, between October 2003 and April 2009, Pathways has helped over 189,000 people into work.

Pensioner Poverty

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps she plans to take to reduce the level of pensioner poverty. [321794]

Angela Eagle: We have a good track record.

Today there are 900,000 fewer pensioners living in relative poverty than in 1997. We continue to look at ways to further improve pension credit take up and have taken forward radical reforms which will deliver a fairer, more generous state pension and enable millions more to save for their retirement.

Age Concern: Finance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 76-77W, on the Pension Service: Torbay, whether she plans to provide additional support to Age Concern Torbay to enable it to provide face-to-face advice surgeries. [322087]

Angela Eagle: PDCS Local Service is working closely with Age Concern in Torbay in order to offer a range of services to pensioners in the Torbay area. The Age Concern office is an accredited alternative office, which offers customers an alternative channel to access benefits and services.

PDCS Local Service provides additional support to Age Concern by undertaking regular reviews and delivering training sessions for staff. This enables Age Concern staff to be accredited to accept claims from people aged 60 or over for Social Security benefits, or from a person under age 60 for disability and carers benefits.

In addition PDCS Local Service accepts referrals directly from Age Concern to undertake home visits to pensioners. Ongoing support with complex cases is also provided.

The PDCS Local Service manager in the area regularly meets with the manager of Age Concern Torbay to discuss the joint service offering and explore ways in which Local Service and Age Concern can work together in partnership to their mutual benefit to offer access to services in the community.

Carer's Allowance

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will review the requirement that a carer must provide at least 35 hours of care a week to receive the carer's allowance for the purposes of taking into account the work of young carers. [320289]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government acknowledged in the revised National Carer Strategy, published in June 2008, that the current system of carers' benefits is not flexible enough to adapt to the wide variety of circumstances, responsibilities and needs that carers face.

The 10-year strategy has a long-term commitment to review the structure of benefits available to carers in the context of wider benefit reform and the fundamental review of the care and support system.

It highlighted, as a priority, that children and young people will be protected from inappropriate caring and have the support they need to learn, develop and thrive, and to enjoy positive childhoods. We are committed to young carers having the same access to education, career and life choices as their peers and to enabling and encouraging them to attend and enjoy school and further or higher education.

The Government's vision for young carers is one where active prevention—protecting young people from falling into inappropriate caring—is the priority and a guiding principle behind the planning and delivery of services to support them and their families.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment she has made of the effect of the carer's allowance on the standard of living of carers and their dependants. [320307]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions has commissioned the Centre for Research into Care, Labour and Equalities, based at the University of Leeds, to conduct a detailed investigation into the circumstances of carer's allowance recipients. This involves a survey of 1,600 carers who receive the allowance, followed by in-depth interviews and focus group meetings with 90 individuals, selected as representative of the overall carer's allowance population, as well as discussions with professionals working with these customers. We expect to publish the research in summer 2010.

The Department for Work and Pensions is also assisting the Department of Health in carrying out a large-scale survey of carers in England. This includes a number of questions designed to yield information about carer's allowance recipients. Headline results are expected in July 2010, with a full report in autumn 2010.

In addition to carer's allowance, carers on low incomes can also receive a carer premium or additional amount for carers with income-related benefits such as income support and pension credit. The premium has been progressively increased from £14.15 a week in April 2000 to its current level of £29.50.

We are also providing further help for carers who are able to combine some paid employment with their caring responsibilities by increasing the carer's allowance weekly earnings limit from £95 to £100 in April 2010.

Council Tax Benefits

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the monetary value of *(a)* claimed and *(b)* unclaimed council tax benefit by each client group in 2008-09. [321120]

Helen Goodman: The information is not available for the year requested.

Estimates of the value of claimed and unclaimed council tax benefit are provided in the National Statistics series 'Income Related Benefits: Estimates of Take-Up'.

The latest available report provides information for 2007-08. A copy is available in the Library and online at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/irb.asp

The report provides the following information in relation to council tax benefit for Great Britain in 2007-08:

£ million

Family type	*Total amount claimed*	*Total range unclaimed*
Pensioners	2,010	Between 1,240 and 1,690
Couples with children	220	Between 70 and 130
Singles with children	700	Between 30 and 110
Non-pensioners without children	830	Between 180 and 320

Source:
National Statistics series 'Income Related Benefits: Estimates of Take-Up'

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on office refurbishments in each year since its inception. [320472]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department occupies the vast majority of its properties under the terms of a PFI contract for which it pays a unitary charge in return for fully fitted and serviced accommodation. The unitary charge includes works carried out over the life cycle of the accommodation which contain an element of refurbishment that cannot be disaggregated from overall expenditure.

Some refurbishments are not covered by the unitary charge and are funded separately as capital expenditure, which would include major projects, and the fit out of new buildings. Expenditure increased from 2002 when the Department embarked on a major programme funded by the Treasury to improve the services delivered to the public, including those provided by Jobcentre Plus, the Pension Service and Debt Management Services. The Department's expenditure on these major refurbishment projects since its creation in 2001 is set out in the following table.

	£ million
2001-02	77.8
2002-03	170.0
2003-04	282.3
2004-05	117.3
2005-06	278.9
2006-07	162.2
2007-08	48.2
2008-09	22.6

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* disciplinary and *(b)* capability procedures have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed in her Department in each of the last five years; how much time on average was taken to complete each type of procedure in each such year; how many and what proportion of her Department's staff were subject to each type of procedure in each such year; and how many and what proportion of each type of procedure resulted in the dismissal of the member of staff. [320623]

Jonathan Shaw: The information sought is not available prior to April 2007. Such information as is available for subsequent years is as follows:

Table 1: Number of staff in respect of whom disciplinary procedures were completed

	Number of staff at year end	*Discipline procedures completed*	*Percentage of headcount*
2007-08	113,972	903	0.79
2008-09	106,963	1,081	1.01
2009-10[1]	120,944	1,212	1.00

[1] To end February 2010.

Table 2: Number of staff in respect of whom capability procedures were completed

	Number of staff at year end	*Capability procedures completed*	*Percentage of headcount*
2007-08	113,972	109	0.10
2008-09	106,963	77	0.07
2009-10[1]	120,944	87	0.07

[1] To end February 2010.

Table 3: Number of staff dismissed as a result of capability/discipline action

	Dismissed on grounds of capability	*Percentage of capability procedures undertaken*	*Dismissed on grounds of discipline*	*Percentage of disciplinary procedures undertaken*
2007-08	17	16	178	20
2008-09	15	19	233	22
2009-10[1]	22	25	300	25

[1] To end February 2010.

The figures in table 3 do not include staff dismissed for health related reasons.

Departmental Fraud

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in her Department were responsible for each instance of fraud or attempted fraud attributable to such staff *(a)* against the benefits system and *(b)* in other areas in each of the last five years. [316400]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 8 February 2010]:* The figures in the following table show the number of staff involved in instances of attempted or actual fraud where the investigation was completed in the year stated. The figures relate to all the benefits administered by DWP, theft of assets and financial irregularities. This analysis is consistent with the way in which the Department reports information on staff investigations to HM Treasury.

	Number of staff		
	Benefit fraud	*Other fraud*	*Total staff in post*
2004-05	4	48	126,988
2005-06	52	118	119,972
2006-07	51	93	114,500
2007-08	62	110	107,998
2008-09	42	156	102,374

While recognising that only a very small number of our staff commit fraud, the Department has a robust approach to the detection, prevention and deterrence of staff fraud consistent with HM Treasury guidance. Where fraud is proven, staff are subject to disciplinary action and, in the case of criminal offences, the Department will normally seek to prosecute, engaging the police where necessary.

The Department has a whistleblowers' hotline to enable staff to report suspicions of fraud.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the losses from *(a)* the benefits system and *(b)* other areas attributable to fraud committed by staff of her Department, in each of the last five years. [316401]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 8 February 2010]:* Information is not available in the exact format requested from 2004 as losses were only broken down into the specified categories from April 2005. Overall totals are therefore provided for 2004-05.

The following tables contain the estimated losses arising from attempted or actual fraud by staff where the Department's investigation was completed in the year stated (not including the value of the fraud arising from false employment applications where the loss to the Department is notional).

	All fraud: Value of loss (£)	*DWP total expenditure (£ billion)*
2004-05	52,857	118.9

	Value of loss (£)		
	Benefit fraud	*Other fraud*	*DWP total expenditure (£ billion)*
2005-06	83,135	109,895	123.6
2006-07	435,452	72,782	126.7
2007-08	346,527	195,151	133.3
2008-09	301,528	216,149	142.7

While recognising that only a very small number of our staff commit fraud, the Department has a robust approach to the detection, prevention and deterrence of staff fraud consistent with HM Treasury guidance. Where fraud is proven, staff are subject to disciplinary action and, in the case of criminal offences, the Department will normally seek to prosecute, engaging the police where necessary.

The Department has a whistleblowers' hotline to enable staff to report suspicions of fraud.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in her Department and its agencies have the status of *(a)* embedded communicators or *(b)* are members of the Government Communications Network but are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book. [315596]

Jonathan Shaw: The DWP's communications professionals include press office, internal and stakeholder communication, and digital media. They work right across the breadth of the Department's responsibilities and also provide services for Jobcentre Plus and the Pensions, Disability and Carers Service and Directgov.

The work includes communicating with staff, the public, business and stakeholders on the help and support available, eligibility for entitlements, pensions, additional help and support as well as the detailed work on pension reform. The Directgov website provides extensive help and information on the public services available to citizens across national and local government.

From a total of 119,625 members of staff, DWP has 155 embedded communications staff outside of its central communications function. From 1 April 2010 that will reduce to 119, the majority working for Directgov which is the Government website for public services in the UK. Others work on internal communications in central Directorates and delivery businesses. Staffing figures are provided as Staff in Post figures rather than whole time equivalents as to do otherwise would incur disproportionate cost.

Government Communications Network (GCN) membership data are not held by individual departments. Therefore accurate information cannot be produced without incurring disproportionate cost.

Employment Schemes: Private Sector

Ms Barlow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations she has received on provision of Jobcentre Plus services through the private sector. [321770]

Helen Goodman: DWP receives numerous representations from both individuals and organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors to deliver a range of welfare to work services. All opportunities to tender for the provision of employment programmes are advertised on the Supplying DWP section of our website. This is to ensure open and fair competition in accordance with public procurement policy and EU regulations. We also have strict criteria for those wishing to apply to deliver services through our Right to Bid procedure.

Employment Schemes: Young People

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1028-29W, on employment schemes: young people, which *(a)* Jobcentre Plus districts, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* constituencies have no Future Jobs Fund jobs; and in which (i) Jobcentre Plus districts, (ii) local authorities and (iii) constituencies elements of the young person's guarantee are (A) available and (B) not available. [321467]

Angela Eagle: Any organisation in England, Scotland and Wales can bid to the Future Jobs Fund. However, details of specific locations where Future Jobs Fund jobs have been created can be obtained only at disproportionate cost at *(a)* Jobcentre Plus district and *(b)* local authority level. Details of the location of Future Jobs Fund are not broken down by *(c)* constituency and are therefore not available.

The Young Person's Guarantee has been available in *(a)* all Jobcentre Plus districts, *(b)* all local authorities and *(c)* all constituencies, since 25 January 2010.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department has taken to obtain the support of businesses for its work to assist young people into employment. [321788]

Helen Goodman: The Department has actively sought the support of businesses and other employers to assist young people into employment. Over 920 organisations from business, public sector, and third sector have signed up to the Backing Young Britain campaign to provide more opportunities for young people to gain apprenticeships, jobs and work experience. Over 110,000 jobs have been created by a variety of employers, mainly for long term unemployed young people, through the Future Jobs Fund.

Many employers have responded by agreeing to work with Government through local employment partnerships, to open up employment and training o[illegible] to unemployed jobseekers. Over 70,000 empl[illegible]oss the country have recruited through local employment partnerships since they were introduced in 2007, and more than 567,000 people have been helped into work during that time.

Future Jobs Fund

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs have been provided by the Future Jobs Fund in each local authority area; what estimate she has made of the range of administrative charges made by local authorities by the management of the fund; and if she will make a statement. [318166]

Jim Knight: Details of the availability of the Future Jobs Fund at local authority level can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Job start information can be classified by Jobcentre Plus district level. However, this information would detail which Jobcentre Plus district processed the job, not the actual location of the job itself.

We did not set specific targets for the costs of administration as we wanted organisations to be free to deliver the jobs fund and to tailor jobs to the needs of the client group. Therefore, the Department for Work and Pensions does not have an estimate of the administrative charges made by local authorities in connection with the Future Jobs Fund. The key specifications are that the jobs should be of a minimum of 25 hours per week; that they should be paid at least at the National Minimum Wage; provide enhanced training and support to the employee, as well as cover other costs incurred in the delivery of the Future Jobs Fund. This is required to be delivered within the maximum unit cost of £6,500 provided by the Government.

Jobcentre Plus provides administrative support to local authorities and other lead bidders by putting forward suitable candidates to fill Future Jobs Fund vacancies.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs have been created under the Future Jobs Fund by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* third sector organisations to date. [318532]

Angela Eagle: Of the 110,000 Future Jobs Fund jobs we have agreed to fund from the first seven rounds of bidding, there have been 56,000 jobs from bids where a local authority has been the lead bidder and over 41,000 jobs from bids where a third sector organisation has been the lead bidder.

Other jobs have been created in local authorities and third sector organisations, where these organisations were not the lead bidder. However, the data have not been captured and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Jobcentres: Courier Services

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on sending customer documents by courier between jobcentres and benefit delivery centres in the last financial year for which figures are available; which courier companies were used; how much was paid to each; and if she will make a statement. [316961]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 22 February 2010]*: TNT UK Ltd. is DWP's contracted courier provider that delivers a single dedicated network service that is accessed jointly by DWP and HMRC. In 2008-09 DWP courier service expenditure with TNT was £9.5 million.

Our latest volume information confirms that TNT transport around 13 million items per year for DWP alone—around 11 million standard service (undocumented) where items are not recorded or tracked; and around two million consignments fully tracked (documented) where they are recorded at all stages of their transfer from collection to delivery through the TNT network. DWP has recently moved to a combined DWP/HMRC dedicated courier service which now carries both standard and fully tracked mail. This new service was introduced on 18 January 2010 . This service provides an industry standard and more secure courier service, provide improved value for money and will reduce the risk associated with the transfer of our courier mail.

Our MI data do not provide specific details of the courier traffic between Jobcentre Plus and Benefit Delivery Centres—although Jobcentre Plus accounts for approximately 90 per cent. of all DWP business courier transfers. However, please note that the level of information available does not detail courier transfers between Jobcentres and Benefit Delivery Centres.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Young People

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* claimants and *(b)* claimants aged 16 to 24 years registered as new claimants in respect of jobseeker's allowance following the completion of their period on the New Deal without finding employment in each year since the inception of the New Deal. [311758]

Jim Knight: The available information can be found in tables (a) and (b).

We are currently in the process of introducing the Flexible New Deal which replaces the existing New Deals with more flexible, tailored support. The Flexible New Deal will be available in most areas of the country by October 2010.

The small number of people who may finish the Flexible New Deal without finding sustained work, normally at the 24-month point of unemployment, will return to Jobseeker's Allowance at the Supported Work Search stage (Stage 3). This will allow the claimant to make the best use of their experience with the Flexible New Deal provider while being required to actively seek work.

From November this year, we will also be testing two new types of support for those who finish the Flexible New Deal without finding sustained work.

In two pilot areas—Greater Manchester and Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire—people who complete Flexible New Deal without securing employment will undertake either the Work for Your Benefit programme or the Jobcentre Plus based Enhanced Support Period.

Work for Your Benefit is a programme of full-time work experience backed with additional employment support for up to six months. This is designed to help them to build up their work habits and gain practical experience which will be of value to themselves and to employers.

In addition, a new Jobcentre Plus based Enhanced Support Period will deliver more intensive one to one adviser support backed up with a ring fenced Personal Support Fund of £500 per person.

Table (a): New deal leavers and leavers to jobseeker's allowance time series—year of leaving

As at May	*Total leavers*	*Leavers to jobseeker's allowance*
1998	79,790	3,250
1999	200,500	25,050
2000	202,510	27,670
2001	217,330	27,650
2002	272,340	49,800
2003	286,980	56,020
2004	268,870	48,580
2005	244,320	52,530
2006	264,580	58,610
2007	314,700	70,040
2008	276,300	71,300
2009	134,170	47,060
Total	2,762,370	537,550

Table (b): New deal for young people—leavers (spells): immediate destination on leaving by time series—year of leaving

As at May	*Total leavers from new deal for young people*	*Leavers to jobseeker's allowance*
1998	79,790	3,250
1999	200,500	25,050
2000	202,510	27,670
2001	179,720	21,970
2002	168,370	20,050
2003	174,040	21,030
2004	169,190	20,900
2005	153,570	24,320
2006	176,300	28,880
2007	194,120	32,810
2008	159,260	29,930
2009	87,390	25,360
Total	1,944,760	281,210

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

2. Total leavers in table (a) include leavers from New Deal for Partners, New Deal for 25 Plus and New Deal for Young People.

3. Table (a) does not include New Deal for Disabled People, New Deal for Lone Parents and New Deal for 50 Plus for which leavers data is not available.

4. Year of leaving is the calendar year of leaving New Deal.

5. Immediate destination is measured within two weeks of leaving New Deal, using information from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

6. Latest data are to May 2009.

7. The measure used for New Deal for Partners is Leavers (individuals) as spells are not available.

8. The New Deal for Young People pilots began in January 1998 and full national roll-out occurred in April 1998.

9. The New Deal for 25 Plus programme was introduced in July 1998.

10. Data for New Deal for Partners are available from April 2004 (programme started in May 1999).

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

Oil: Storage

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what reports she has received on alternatives to oil storage tanks at the Oikos site in Haven Road, Canvey; what representations she has received from the Health and Safety Executive on such alternatives; and if she will make a statement. [321603]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 11 March 2010]*: The Secretary of State has received no reports on alternatives to oil storage tanks at the Oikos site on Canvey Island or representations from the Health and Safety Executive on such matters.

Consent for the storage of hazardous chemicals at this site, or any alternative sites, is the responsibility of the local planning authority, which for Canvey Island is Castle Point borough council.

HSE's role is to monitor safety at this site. HSE will continue to do this and will assess any significant changes made to the site and to the site's COMAH safety report as a result of any changes that Oikos may propose.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment the Health and Safety Executive has made of possible risks to local residents and businesses from the operation of the Oikos Canvey Island site. [321962]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 22 March 2010]*: Oikos Oil Storage Ltd. are responsible under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 (as amended) for assessing any risks to local residents and businesses from the operations at their Canvey Island site, and for implementing all necessary measures to prevent major accidents and limit their consequences for people and the environment.

Oikos Oil Storage Ltd. has an existing Hazardous Substances Consent from Castle Point borough council to store at its Canvey Island site up to 232,501 tonnes of highly flammable liquids which may include petrol and petroleum mixtures. When the consent was granted in 1992, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) assessed the risks to people off-site from the consented quantity of hazardous substances for the purpose of providing land use planning advice to the borough council. A more detailed assessment was conducted in 2002 to set the current land use planning zones around the site.

Following the explosion and fire at the Buncefield fuel storage terminal, HSE introduced precautionary arrangements to strengthen development controls in the areas closest to sites engaged in filling large storage tanks with petrol at a specified rate.

Petrol is not currently stored at the Oikos Canvey Island site. HSE will review its risk assessment and, if necessary, revise its land use planning advice to Castle Point borough council once Oikos Oil Storage Ltd. provides details of its arrangements for receiving and storing petrol at the site.

Personal Accounts Delivery Authority

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information her Department holds on the number of jobs under the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority contract for scheme administration services to be based in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* each other country. [321405]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 9 March 2010]*: Staffing numbers required to administer NEST on an ongoing basis will depend upon the number of scheme members.

All the public facing elements of service provision are due to be carried-out by staff based in the UK. Back-office, administrative processing and IT functions are due to be delivered in India. Once fully established, we estimate that between 40 and 45 per cent. of staff will be based in the UK.

Poverty

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of those aged 16 to 24 years old were classed as living in poverty in each financial year since 1996-97. [313162]

Helen Goodman: In response to the recession, the Government have put in place significant additional support for young people through the Young Person's Guarantee and Backing Young Britain campaign. In December 2009, we published 'Investing in Potential', the cross-Government strategy to increase the proportion of 16 to 24-year-olds in education, employment and training.

For young people claiming jobseeker's allowance the New Deal has helped almost 900,000 people into work. Independent evaluation found that without New Deal, there would be twice as many young people claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months or more than at present.

The requested information is given in the following table, for periods where data are available.

16 to 24-year-olds living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, 1996-97 to 2007-08

	Before housing costs	
	Million	Percentage
Great Britain		
1996-97	1.2	19
1997-98	1.1	18
1998-99	1.0	17
1999-2000	1.1	19
2000-01	1.1	18
2001-02	1.1	18
United Kingdom		
2002-03	1.2	18
2003-04	1.1	18
2004-05	1.2	17
2005-06	1.4	20
2006-07	1.3	18
2007-08	1.4	19

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey. Both of these documents are available in the Library.
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years.
4. Figures are for the United Kingdom from 2002-03 onwards. Earlier years are for Great Britain only, as such there is a slight discontinuity between the figures pre- and post-2002-03.
5. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
6. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) equivalisation factors.
7. Number and percent of 16 to 24-year-olds in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand individuals, or whole percentage point respectively.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what criteria recipients of *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* attendance allowance under special rules are required to meet; [322178]

(2) whether recipients of *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* attendance allowance under special rules are required to qualify for support through the social care system in order to be eligible to claim each benefit. [322163]

Jonathan Shaw: The Special Rules provision applies to individuals who are in the last stages of a progressive disease and who are expected to die within six months. The individual's GP or other health care professional submits a medical report to the Department confirming the diagnosis. Those who meet this criterion do not need to serve the normal qualifying periods for attendance allowance and disability living allowance before receiving benefit assistance. There is no requirement to qualify for support though the social care system in order to be eligible to claim these benefits.

Social Security Benefits: Parents

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding her Department has allocated to increase access to *(a)* benefits and *(b)* back-to-work schemes for low-paid and unemployed adults with children in 2009-10. [320795]

Helen Goodman: The Budget 2008 introduced the Child Poverty pilots, which are jointly funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, and the Department for Work and Pensions. For 2009-10, the Department for Work and Pensions contribution is £9.7 million.

One of the objectives of the pilots is to look at new and innovative ways to support parents into and to remain in work, as well as helping those out of work. The pilots include outreach work for Jobcentre Plus around Children's Centres and schools, as well as providing help back into work for those with younger children.

These are in addition to mandatory and voluntary programmes such as jobseeker's allowance, Flexible New Deal and the New Deals for Lone Parents and Partners, active labour market interventions such as Lone Parent Obligations and Progression to Work and infrastructure measures such as child care investment. Financial support may also be available including working tax credit aimed at ensuring that work pays and In Work Credit to help make the transition into work.

From October 2010 the Department for Work and Pensions will be implementing an enhanced Better off in Work Credit so that everyone who has been unemployed for 26 weeks or more will receive an income of at least £40 a week more on moving into work. The credit is expected to be available nationally from January 2011.

Social Security Benefits: Young People

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many 18 to 25-year-olds are claiming jobseeker's allowance or other benefits. [321787]

Helen Goodman: As at August 2009, there were 988,780 young people aged 18 to 25 claiming DWP-administered benefits in Great Britain, of which 491,060 were claiming jobseeker's allowance.

Unemployment Benefits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment she has made of the effect on benefit claimants of the period between which they move into work and have their benefit stopped and their first payment from their employer; what steps she is planning to take to help deal with this issue for benefit claimants; and whether she has considered allowing providers more flexibility to cover this gap using their service fee. [315693]

Jim Knight: We keep the transition of claimants from benefits to employment under regular review and have put in place a number of schemes that give people extra financial support on returning to work. For example, we introduced the job grant to specifically help customers who move into work manage until they receive their wages. It provides eligible customers a non-taxable payment of £100 for single people and couples without children, and £250 for lone parents and couples with children. In addition, housing costs are paid for four weeks after returning to work to customers who have been on income support or jobseeker's allowance for 26 weeks or more. As benefits are generally paid two weeks in arrears, this goes some way to filling any gap before payment of first wages.

For all customers leaving jobseeker's allowance for work, Jobcentre Plus staff can help them make claims to working tax credit using a special fast track procedure, which means that in many cases tax credit is paid in advance of first wages. As a last resort, in cases of very urgent financial need, customers can apply for interest-free crisis loans from the social fund.

Flexible New Deal providers already have the flexibility to use their service fee to provide help and support tailored to the needs of each jobseeker's allowance customer, to enable them to move into and stay in work.

Unemployment Benefits: Medical Examinations

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of people claiming *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance attended a medical assessment in the latest period for which figures are available; [317621]

(2) how many and what proportion of people who made a successful claim for *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance attended a medical assessment in each year since 1997. [317622]

Jonathan Shaw: Incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance customers are not medically assessed by the Department, they are assessed to determine their functional capability. All claims must be assessed in order to qualify for continued entitlement. Information on the number of initial awards following these assessments is not available. The available information for incapacity benefit is provided in the following table:

Incapacity benefit scrutinies and completed examinations, Great Britain

	Number
September 2005 to August 2006	816,043
September 2006 to August 2007	985,500
September 2007 to August 2008	1,080,920
September 2008 to August 2009	717,250
September to December 2009	140,423

Notes:
1. Management Information held by the Department does not separately identify Personal Capability Assessments in respect of initial claims to benefit, as all referrals were in respect of customers in receipt of incapacity benefit.
2. Excludes Work Focused Health Related Assessments.
3. Data relate to the number of completed medical examinations and paper scrutiny clearances completed by Atos Healthcare.
Source:
DWP medical services contract management information.

For employment and support allowance claims we have data on claims from the introduction of employment and support allowance on 27 October 2008 to May 2009. The main data relating to Work Capability Assessment claims are published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/esa_wca_19012010.pdf

A copy of this report has also been placed in the Library.

Winter Fuel Payments: British Nationals Abroad

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many winter fuel payments were made to persons living outside the UK in 1996-97; and what estimate she has made of the number of winter fuel payments made to persons living in *(a)* Spain, *(b)* Italy, *(c)* Greece, *(d)* Portugal and *(e)* other countries outside the UK in the last financial year. [320314]

Angela Eagle: Winter fuel payments were first introduced in winter 1997-98 and paid to eligible people living in the United Kingdom (UK).

Since 2002 winter fuel payments have been made to eligible former UK residents living elsewhere in the European Economic Area or Switzerland provided they qualified for a winter fuel payment before leaving the UK. Under European Union law some benefits acquired in one member state must be paid to people who live outside that state but within the European Economic Area. Winter fuel payments are one of these benefits and the UK is bound by European Union law.

Information for winter 2008-09 (the last year for which information is available) is in the following table.

Winter fuel payments (WFPs) paid to people living in the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland outside UK

WFPs by country	*2008-09*
Spain	31,145
Italy	1,114
Greece	1,111
Portugal	1,510
Other countries within the EEA and Switzerland	30,409

Note:
The figures are for automated payments which account for the great majority of payments made.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many retailers have been convicted of an offence of persistent sale of alcohol to a person under 18 years in each year since 2006. [315154]

Alan Johnson: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts of an offence of persistent sale of alcohol to a person less than 18 years, England and Wales can be viewed in the following table. Data are only available for 2008, when the offence came into force. Court proceedings data for 2009 are due to be published in autumn 2010.

Number of defendants convicted of an offence of persistently sale of alcohol to a person less than 18 years, 2006 to 2008[1, 2]

Offence	*2006*	*2007*	*2008[3]*
Persistently selling alcohol to children Licensing Act 2003 as added by Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 S.147A	*	*	7

'*' = Not applicable—the Act came into force in 2008.
[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Excludes convictions data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) with reference to the answer of 26 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1204-5W, on crime, how many incidents related to public safety/welfare were recorded in each category in 2008-09; [313815]

(2) how many incidents with the qualifier hate/discrimination were recorded in each category in 2008-09; [313816]

(3) how many incidents relating to administration were recorded in each category in 2008-09; [313817]

(4) how many incidents with the qualifier *(a)* alcohol, *(b)* critical incident, *(c)* domestic abuse, *(d)* drugs, *(e)* firearms, *(f)* weapons, *(g)* youth-related aged under 10 and (h) youth-related aged 10 to 17 were recorded in 2008-09. [313818]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 2010]:* The number of incidents recorded by police forces in each category classified as public safety/welfare as defined within the National Incident Category List (NICL) for 2008-9 is attached in Table A. The data are normally for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply to National Statistics publications. They are provisional and may be subject to change. The data represent calls for service as recorded by police forces under the relevant categories and may be subject to local variation in reporting and classifying.

A reliable figure for incidents with the qualifier hate/discrimination for England and Wales is not available. More than 10 per cent. of police forces were not able to return qualifier data for 2008-09[1]. The data are normally for management information only.

The administration data categories are for local management purposes only and were not required from police forces for the Annual Data Return in 2009. The Home Office continues to review the data required from police forces and to balance user needs against burdens on police forces.

A reliable England and Wales figure for incidents with the qualifiers requested is not available. More than 10 per cent. of police forces were not able to return qualifier data for 2008-09[1]. The data are normally for management information only.

[1] It was only mandatory for police forces to return data until June 2009.

Table A: Number of incidents in each category classified as public safety/welfare as defined within the National Incident Category List (NICL) in 2008-09

Category	*Total*
Abandoned Call	500,613
Absconder/AWOL	4,903
Alarm: Monitoring Station—False-Active	194,294
Alarm: Monitoring Station—False-Withdrawn	8,894
Alarm: Police Installed	19,752
Alarm: Premises Audible only	106,117
Breach of Injunction/Court Order	4,974
Civil Disputes	185,887
Collapse/Illness/Injury/Trapped	142,810
Concern for Safety	899,449
Domestic Incident	583,537
Firearms	23,187
Immigration	9,561
Industrial Incident/Accident	3,886
Insecure Premises/Vehicles	35,781
Licensing	7,905
Missing Person-High Risk	39,549
Missing Person-Medium Risk	122,493
Missing Person-Low Risk	40,703
Missing Person-Unauthorised Absence	37,599
Natural Disaster/Incident/Warning	5,484
Pets/Domesticated Animals	50,824
Protest/Demonstration	2,228
Sudden Death	75,728
Suspicious Circumstances	1,324,821
Suspicious Package/Object	9,260
Truancy	2,606
Wildlife	15,204
Public Safety/Welfare Total	4,458,049

Crime Prevention: Retail Trade

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with shopkeepers and representatives of small businesses to identify methods of enhancing the security and safety of their properties and staff. [321469]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I chair the National Retail Crime Steering Group (NRCSG) which was set up by the Home Office in partnership with the British Retail Consortium in 2007. The NRCSG provides a forum for representatives from Government, law enforcement agencies, the larger retailers and business and trade organisations such the Association of Convenience Stores and Federation of Small Businesses to discuss and devise strategies for tackling crimes of concern to retailers and includes addressing the security and safety of staff and premises.

The NRCSG published a joint Retail Crime Action Plan which details a range of work to tackle crime. For details of the plan see:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/retail-crime-action-plan.html

Both the Home Office and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) fully support USDAW 's Freedom from Fear campaign to promote the safety and well-being of shop workers. We are working with the HSE to help reduce the incidence of work-related violence in the retail sector. In October 2008, the HSE published a toolkit to help employers cut the risk of violence against shop workers. The toolkit provides practical advice on how to conduct a risk assessment and how to take action to prevent or control work-related violence. It contains information on a wide range of possible control measures and good practice that other businesses have found effective.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with representatives of the security industry on the provision of cheaper and more up-to-date security systems for shops and small business premises. [321470]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I chair the National Retail Crime Steering Group (NRCSG), which provides a forum for representatives from Government, law enforcement agencies, the larger retailers and business and trade organisations such the Association of Convenience Stores and Federation of Small Businesses to discuss and devise strategies for tackling crimes of concern to retailers.

My advice on security systems and equipment is provided by the Home Office Scientific Development Branch which is a key member of the NRCSG. They are preparing a CCTV standards leaflet for small shops and for licensed premises to contain all the basic information on what to expect from a CCTV system, and provides a list of key requirements such as minimum image quality, recording, camera placement.

We are currently distributing the Small Retailers Capital Grants Fund which is designed to help fight crime and is being allocated to around 1,000 small retailers in 50 priority areas across England and Wales. The grants are being used for a variety of purposes including purchasing security equipment for individual retailers such as CCTV; infrared security cameras; security shutters and rollers; safes; alarms; anti-fraud equipment such as UV markers to detect counterfeit notes, and anti-graffiti paint.

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of *(a)* violent crime and *(b)* serious violent crime there were in (i)

Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) England and Wales in each year since 1997. [321592]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The term 'violent crime' is no longer used. Data are supplied for violence against the person offences. The requested information is shown in the table. Recorded crime statistics at constituency level are not collected centrally.

Table 1: Offences of violence against the person recorded by the police, 1997

	Number
South Tyneside CDRP	[1]—
North-east region	9,242
England and Wales	250,882

[1] Not available.

Table 2: Offences of violence against the person recorded by the police, 1998-99 to 2001-02

Offence	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	Number *2001-02*
South Tyneside CDRP	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1,686
North-east region	20,391	21,984	21,086	25,579
England and Wales	502,778	581,034	600,913	650,326

[1] Not available.

Notes:

1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
2. The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Offences of violence against the person recorded by the police, 2002-03 to 2008-09

	South Tyneside CDRP	*North-east region*	Number *England and Wales*[1]
2002-03	2,568	39,164	845,078
2003-04	2,500	40,561	967,228
2004-05	2,252	41,537	1,048,095
2005-06	2,637	46,206	1,059,583
2006-07	2,711	48,194	1,046,167
2007-08	2,289	41,085	961,099
2008-09	2,023	37,244	903,442

[1] Includes British Transport police from 2002-03.

Note:

The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Identity Cards: Procurement

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department paid to each management consultancy for client-side advice in relation to the Identity and Passport service National Identity Scheme Procurement programme; how much time was taken *(a)* to complete the pre-procurement process and *(b)* between issue of prior indicative notice and the award of contracts; what the value was of each contract awarded; what requirements there were on bidders in respect of the presentation of their bids; and how many submissions bidders were required to make. [314812]

Meg Hillier: The information is as follows:

(a) The information is not held in a format easily available to answer the question. The external consultancy cost relating to projects for both passport and identity card projects were approximately £16 million in 2007-08 and approximately £40 million in 2008-09 as published in the agency's annual report and accounts. Costs for external consultancy in 2009-10 will be published in the IPS annual report and accounts for 2009-10.

(b) It took eight months to create the Strategic Supplier Group Framework from which the Transforming Customer Experience, National Identity Assurance Service (NIAS) and the Critical Workers Identity Card (CWIC) contracts were awarded. For the Passport Book Design Production contract the pre-procurement process was eight months.

No Prior Indicative Notices were published in relation to the award of the Strategic Supplier Framework Contract or the National Identity Service contracts let from the Framework.

The values of the contract awarded are-Transforming Customer Experience (TCE) £385 million, National Identity Assurance Service (NIAS) £265 million, Critical Workers Identity Cards (CWIC) £18 million and Passport Design Production (PDP) £400 million.

Dialogue sessions were held with bidders to help inform the finalisation of the requirements and to help the bidders understand the agency's needs. Formal presentations were made to senior officials.

The number of submissions that bidders were required to make were as follows:

	Number
TCE	3
NIAS	2
CWIC	1
PDP	2

Motor Vehicles: Seized Articles

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cars were seized by Lancashire Constabulary for *(a)* crushing and *(b)* other means of disposal in each of the last five years. [322021]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 12 March 2010]*: The police are empowered to remove and store vehicles under various provisions, in particular the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (vehicles illegally, obstructively or dangerously parked or broken down or abandoned), the Road Traffic Act 1988 (vehicles driven without appropriate licence or insurance) and the Police Reform Act 2002 (vehicles causing alarm, distress or annoyance).

The police must return these vehicles on payment of prescribed charges and satisfaction of any other prescribed conditions. If payment is not made or relevant conditions are not satisfied, the police may dispose of the vehicle concerned as they consider most appropriate, usually by crushing or sale. Information on the numbers of vehicles removed under the different powers and what subsequently happens to each of them is not collected centrally.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much revenue was raised from *(a)* crushing and *(b)* other means of disposal of cars in (i) Lancashire and (ii) England and Wales in each of the last five years. [322022]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 12 March 2010]:* Any vehicle seized by the police can be reclaimed on payment of charges prescribed by statute to meet police costs and on satisfaction of any other prescribed requirements. If a vehicle is not reclaimed, the police may dispose of it as they consider appropriate. Any proceeds of the disposal are used to meet the prescribed charges; any surplus is returned to the owner. Information is not collected centrally on these transactions.

National Identity Register

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 817W, on the National Identity Register, what the estimated total monetary value is of contracts in each of the framework agreements. [318321]

Meg Hillier: The suppliers that comprise the IPS Strategic Supplier Framework agreement for the National Identity Service (NIS) are: Computer Sciences Limited (CSC), Electronic Data Systems (EDS), Fujitsu Services Ltd. (Fujitsu) IBM United Kingdom (IBM) and Thales UK Ltd. (Thales). IPS signed contracts with three out of these five suppliers for the delivery of the NIS. They are Thales, CSC and IBM. The breakdown is as follows:

Thales UK Ltd.

Thales UK Ltd. was awarded a contract in July 2008 for the technology and process for the early releases of the NIS which is worth £18 million. It has been awarded for four years with four successive 6-month options to extend.

CSC

CSC was awarded a contract in April 2009 for the Application and Enrolment of passports and Identity (ID) Cards which is worth £385 million. The contract is awarded for a period of 10 years.

IBM

IBM was awarded a contract in May 2009 to operate the biometric database for passports and to support ID Cards, which is worth £265 million. The contract is awarded for a period of seven years with one three-year option to extend.

Each of the above values exclude any subsequent contract variations.

TRANSPORT

Cycling: Safety

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what priority his Department gives to increasing safety for cyclists; [321903]

(2) if he will arrange a press conference to publicise the report commissioned by his Department on the potential for cycle helmets to prevent injury; [321904]

(3) what the cost to his Department was of publishing the report on the potential for cycle helmets to prevent injury; and to whom and by what means it was distributed; [321905]

(4) if he will bring forward proposals to make it compulsory for children aged 14 years and under to wear cycle helmets when cycling on the public highway; [321906]

(5) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* lives that could be saved and *(b)* serious injuries that could be prevented if the wearing of cycle helmets by children when cycling on public highway was made compulsory, as recommended by the recent report commissioned by his Department, "The potential for cycle helmets to prevent injury". [321907]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 12 March 2010]:* The Department for Transport's proposals for policies to improve road safety for all road users, including cyclists, were set out in our consultation paper "A Safer Way: Consultation on Making Britain's Roads the Safest in the World", which was published in April 2009.

The Government want to see more people cycling, while at the same time minimising the risks of cycling. There are a number of initiatives under way at present, aimed at improving cycle safety. These include:

promoting bikeability cycle training for children;

using the Highway Code and the Think! road safety campaign to provide advice to child and adult cyclists on safe road use, including use of protective equipment such as high visibility clothing and cycle helmets;

providing more safe cycle routes to schools and other locations;

providing guidance to local authorities on the design of safer road infrastructure, including effective cycle-specific measures, as well as more general measures that benefit all road users, such as 20 mph zones;

improving motor vehicle driver testing and training;

enacting new measures on lorry mirrors to improve the visibility of cyclists and pedestrians.

There are no plans to arrange a press conference in respect of the report commissioned by this Department on the potential for cycle helmets to prevent injury. The Department publishes numerous reports throughout the year and it is not usual practice to facilitate a press conference for each report's publication.

The total cost of the research programme on Road Safety and Cycling is £527,719 excluding VAT. The report on cycle helmets was published by TRL on 15 December 2009 alongside a report providing an understanding of the key causes of collisions involving cyclists. Research findings for both reports are available to download from the Department for Transport website and direct links to the full reports, which are free to download from TRL's website, are provided.

Pre-publication copies of the reports were sent to the road safety and cycling research project's advisory group a week before publication. This group is made up of a wide range of road safety, health, and cycling interest groups. An e-mail link was sent to the advisory group and a wider group of stakeholders on the day of publication.

TRL's research confirms conclusions from earlier work showing that cycle helmets can help to protect cyclists in the event of a collision. That is why the Department for Transport encourages cyclists—especially children—to wear helmets when cycling.

However, the Department has no plans to introduce legislation to make cycle helmets compulsory for children or for adults. Taking into account the practicalities of enforcing such an offence—particularly among children—as well as the possible impact on levels of cycling and the potential loss of wider health benefits, the Department is not persuaded that making helmets mandatory is the right option.

TRL's research project estimated that between 10 and 16 per cent. of cyclist fatalities with a certain type of head injury could have been prevented if they had worn an appropriate cycle helmet. This estimate is based on an assessment of cyclist fatality reports and includes both adults and children. It is not possible to use this to estimate specific casualty savings for children.

The Department for Transport's statistics show that a total of 12 cyclists aged 15 or under were killed in road accidents in Great Britain in 2008. The statistics do not show how many of these were due to head injuries, or how many were, or were not, wearing cycle helmets.

TRL's research also found that of the on-road serious cyclist casualties admitted to hospital in England, 10 per cent. suffered injuries of a type and to a part of the head that a cycle helmet may have mitigated or prevented. 405 child cyclists aged 0 to 15 were recorded as seriously injured in road accidents in Great Britain in 2008, although this definition of serious injury includes a much wider range of injuries that were not sufficiently serious to lead to admission to hospital.

The report also found that a further 20 per cent. of cyclists admitted to hospital suffered 'open wounds to the head', some of which are likely to have been to a part of the head that a cycle helmet may have mitigated or prevented.

Departmental Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many of his Department's staff *(a)* are seconded to BAA and *(b)* were so seconded in each of the last five years; what the roles were of such personnel; and if he will make a statement. [320136]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport's records indicate that no staff are currently seconded to BAA. One member of staff was seconded to BAA for 10 months in 2005. His role was to plan and deliver BAA's surface transport strategy for Heathrow airport. No other staff have been seconded to BAA in the last five years.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many full-time equivalent staff of each grade are employed by his Department to assist special advisers. [321143]

Chris Mole: Two civil servants support the special advisers—one at EO grade, one at HEO grade. Both provide support of a non-political nature in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans his Department has to consult trade unions when considering the funding and spending priorities of his Department for 2009-14. [309068]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport uses the Whitley system as the framework for negotiation, consultation and exchanges of views and information. If the trade unions wish to discuss the funding and spending priorities for the Department, this is the framework for doing so.

Derby-Manchester Railway Line

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will assess the effect of reopening the Derby to Manchester rail line to passenger rail traffic; and what recent discussions he has had with the Peak District National Park Authority in respect of their plan to open up closed tunnels to cyclists. [311177]

Chris Mole: A full assessment of re-opening the Matlock to Buxton and Chinley section of the Derby to Manchester rail line was carried out in 2004 by the Strategic Rail Authority and Derbyshire county council. It concluded that re-opening would costs between £84 million and £123 million. None of the options considered offered value for money and services under all options would require ongoing subsidy.

We have been in discussions with the Peak District National Park about their plans to improve facilities for cyclists, including the opening and upgrading of some routes through tunnels. We have agreed to provide funding to contribute to this project as part of Cycling England's Finding New Solutions—the Role of Leisure programme.

First Capital Connect: Fixed Penalties

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on how many occasions First Capital Connect has been issued with a financial penalty for not providing enough seats for rail passengers in each of the last six months. [321498]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 10 March 2010]*: No financial penalty for not providing enough seats for rail passengers has been issued to First Capital Connect in the last six months.

The Department for Transport is currently working with First Capital Connect to alleviate overcrowding of short formation trains by introducing more coaches to lengthen trains.

Greater Manchester

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Manchester, Gorton constituency, the effects on that constituency of the policies of his Department and its predecessors policies since 1997. [322133]

Mr. Khan: The Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008, has provided a new policy framework benefiting all local transport authorities. The framework gives greater certainty of funding, while encouraging more strategic transport planning with local consultation, and increasing local flexibility and discretion over resources. It was accompanied by a significant increase in capital funding: support from my Department for transport investment in the City of

Manchester, within which transport authority the Gorton constituency falls, has more than doubled over the last decade.

Investment in Greater Manchester's Joint Local Transport Plan, to which Manchester city council is a partner authority, has delivered a number of improvements to the quality, safety and accessibility of the local transport network. Between 2004 and 2008, bus patronage per head of population increased by 7 per cent. and the number of people killed or seriously injured on the local highway network decreased by 28 per cent. in the period 2001-07.

In May 2004, Greater Manchester Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) launched the Local Link flexible transport service in Gorton, Beswick and Openshaw, following a successful bid for £788,400 to the Department's Urban Bus Challenge fund. Local Link is a fully accessible demand-responsive bus service which provides access to health, education, retail and leisure facilities throughout the area seven days a week. In August 2004, an additional vehicle was allocated to the service due to exceptionally high demand.

It was announced in July 2006 that the Department had approved Greater Manchester ITA's major scheme business case for the £575 million Manchester Metrolink Phase 3a expansion. The project will expand the existing Metrolink network to Droylsden, Rochdale and Chorlton. The 3.9 mile extension to Droylsden will provide high quality public transport links between areas of deprivation in East Manchester and the major employment and leisure sites at Manchester Piccadilly and the City of Manchester Stadium. It is anticipated that construction of the Droylsden extension will be completed in spring 2012.

In 2009, the Greater Manchester ITA submitted a successful bid to the Department's Green Bus Fund. The £3.1 million award will support the purchase of 66 low carbon vehicles, including a fleet of 20 diesel-electric hybrid buses to operate Metroshuttle services in Manchester City Centre, 16 hybrid Yellow School Buses, and 30 hybrid single deck vehicles for use on subsidised services in the city.

Kemble-Swindon Railway Line

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 456-7W, on the Kemble-Swindon railway line, whether the discussions with Network Rail on re-doubling of the Swindon-Kemble railway line have been concluded; and when he expects to make an announcement on their outcomes. [321908]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 12 March 2010]:* At present, Network Rail quotes a cost of £52.4 million for the redoubling of the Swindon-Kemble section of route. Officials in the Department for Transport are working with Network Rail to determine and agree ways in which this cost can be reduced to a level at, or within, the budget of £45 million available from the south-west region.

A number of opportunities have been found that could potentially lead to savings being achieved, but these will take some weeks to resolve. I will make an announcement in due course.

Railways: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what estimate he made of the number of passengers who began journeys at York railway station in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* the latest year for which figures are available; [322096]

(2) what estimate he made of the number of passengers who travelled by train between York and *(a)* London, *(b)* Leeds and *(c)* Scotland in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available. [322097]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold this information.

Statistics on individual station usage, journey and revenue information by three sectors of operators, "Long Distance", "London and South East", and "Regional" can be found in "National Rail Trends", published by the Office of Rail Regulation on a quarterly basis, at

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1529

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many trains a day ran between York and *(a)* London, *(b)* Leeds and *(c)* Scotland each day in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available. [322099]

Chris Mole: The following table shows the number of passenger trains operating between York and *(a)* London, *(b)* Leeds and *(c)* Scotland each day in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the current rail timetable. The figures include open access and franchised passenger trains.

		Northbound			*Southbound*		*Difference*
	Day	*June 1996*	*March 10*	*Difference*	*June 1996*	*March 10*	
King's Cross - York	Mon-Fri	27	34	7	27	35	8
	Sat	25	31	6	24	31	7
	Sun	19	25	6	19	29	10
York - Edinburgh	Mon-Fri	21	33	12	21	33	12
	Sat	22	36	14	22	36	14
	Sun	17	32	15	18	32	14
York - Leeds	Mon-Fri	73	85	12	73	81	8
	Sat	74	83	9	71	83	12
	Sun	53	67	14	55	68	13
Total		331	426	+95	330	428	+98

Rapid Transit Systems: Luton

Andrew Selous: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport from which budget the Luton Dunstable busway funding announced on 10 March 2010 will come. [322385]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport's funding contribution towards the Luton Dunstable busway will be provided from the Regional Funding Allocation for the east of England.

Roads: East Sussex

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the timetable is of the decision-making process for confirmation of the compulsory purchase and side road orders for the Bexhill to Hastings link road. [321919]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 12 March 2010]:* The inquiries into the side roads order and compulsory purchase order for the Bexhill to Hastings link road, which commenced on the 10 November 2009, have now closed. The Inspector has yet to submit his report to the Secretary of State; once received the report will be considered by the Secretary of State and a decision taken as to whether or not to confirm the orders.

Roads: Tolls

Mr. Scott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1196W, on roads: tolls, when the most recent discussions referred to in the answer took place. [321965]

Mr. Khan: The Chancellor had a number of discussions with transport Ministers in the lead up to the Budget, during which a range of transport issues were considered. The Budget 2008 was held on 12 March 2008.

Snow and Ice

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions he has had with representatives of local authorities on the gritting of roads during the recent severe weather conditions. [321011]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 9 March 2010]:* On 6 January 2010 the Government and the devolved Administrations, with the support of the Local Government Association re-introduced the Salt Cell. Prior to the Salt Cell being re-introduced Ministers and officials were in close contact with Local Government representatives, in particular the Local Government Association, with whom a number of discussions were held throughout the period of severe weather.

The Salt Cell brings together the Department for Transport, the devolved Administrations (in Scotland and Wales), the Highways Agency, the Local Government Association, the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT), Met Office, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Cabinet Office. The aim of the Salt Cell is to provide advice to suppliers on priorities for deliveries.

The Salt Cell arrives at its decisions by considering information provided by local authorities on their salt stocks and on weather forecasts provided by the Met Office.

Officials have also had a number of ad hoc discussions with local authorities about specific local issues.

Southeastern

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the contribution by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 99WH, on what date he expects to announce the outcome of his full review of Southeastern's timetable early in 2010. [321672]

Chris Mole: The start of Southeastern's timetable review was delayed by over three weeks due to the adverse weather. Therefore, it is anticipated that Southeastern will conclude their review by the end of April 2010. We would expect Southeastern to communicate the outcome of this with its passengers.

Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Stroud constituency, the effects on that constituency of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessors since 2000. [321480]

Mr. Khan: The Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008, has provided a new policy framework benefiting all local transport authorities. The framework gives greater certainty of funding, while encouraging more strategic transport planning with local consultation, and increasing local flexibility and discretion over resources. It was accompanied by a significant increase in capital funding: support from my Department for transport investment in Gloucestershire, within which transport authority Stroud falls, has risen threefold over the last decade.

Investment in the Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan has delivered a number of improvements to the quality, safety and accessibility of the local transport network. Between 2004 and 2008, bus patronage per head of population increased by 24 per cent., and the number of people killed or seriously injured on the local highway network decreased by 36 per cent. in the period 2001-07.

In 2002, Gloucestershire county council received a total of £631,500 from the Department's Rural Bus Challenge fund to establish the Village Link rural bus service. Village Link is a demand-responsive bus service for the elderly, and those with disabilities or mobility problems, who have difficulty accessing employment, education, health care and leisure services due to a lack of transport.

The Stroud Valleys Car Club was launched in June 2003 with grant funding from the Countryside Agency, Gloucestershire county council and Stroud district council. The Car Club is designed to reduce unnecessary car use by giving members flexible access to cars without the costs of car ownership.

In April 2009, the Cotswold Lorry Management Zone Trial came into force. The scheme, developed by Gloucestershire county council, sets clear routes for lorries to use through the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and includes a 7.5 tonne weight restriction on all routes throughout the zone other than the two designated 'through-routes' (the A417 and A419). The scheme aims to achieve a 30 per cent. reduction in heavy goods vehicle flows on the B4008 between the junction 12 of the M5 and the A419, and on the A46 at Painswick near Stroud.

Trade Unions

Mr. Syms: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many days staff of his Department and its agencies spent on trade union activity in the latest year for which figures are available; and what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of such activity. [320615]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold this information centrally, and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Traffic Commissioners

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the budget of the Office of the Traffic Commissioners is for 2009-10; where each of their offices is; and what powers local authorities have to *(a)* object to a heavy goods licence being granted by the Commissioners and *(b)* call for an existing licence to be amended or revoked. [319615]

Paul Clark: The budget of the Office of the Traffic Commissioners in 2009-10 is £6.53 million. The Traffic Commissioners have offices based in:

Edinburgh
Eastbourne
Bristol
Birmingham
Warrington
Leeds
Cambridge

Local authorities' powers to object to heavy goods licences being granted by the commissioners or to call for an existing licence to be amended or revoked are set out in the Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Act 1995. A copy of the Act has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

The relevant legislation is available to the public and more details can be found at:

www.opsi.gov.uk

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions the Government Equalities Office (GEO) has had with the Treasury on its response to the recommendation of the recent Public Accounts Committee report on the Equality and Human Rights Commission on clear guidelines to the Commission on *(a)* how future business cases should demonstrate the achievement of value for money and *(b)* at what point the GEO expects to be brought into these decisions; and when she expects the Treasury Minute in response to the report to be issued. [322344]

Maria Eagle: Following publication of this Committee of Public Accounts' Report on 4 March, the Government Equalities Office has discussed with Treasury the process for preparing the Government response to the report as a whole. The Government's response will be set out alongside responses to the other Committee of Public Accounts' conclusions and recommendations from its Fifteenth Report in a Treasury Minute in due course.

Official Engagements

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what her official engagements are in March 2010. [321457]

Ms Harman: I have accepted a speaking engagement on 11 March. It is not usual practice to release details of future engagements other than confirmed speaking engagements.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cinemas: Hearing Impaired

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the number and proportion of cinemas equipped to show films with subtitles for the deaf and hearing-impaired. [321649]

Mr. Bradshaw: The most recent assessment of the number of cinemas able to provide subtitled screenings of films suggested that at the end of 2008 there were 316 suitably equipped sites in the UK. This equated to 40 per cent. of UK cinema sites, providing around 24,000 subtitled screenings in 2008.

Since that time a number of cinemas have installed digital projectors, which means that the number of sites equipped to show subtitled screenings is likely to have increased significantly.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been paid in reimbursable expenses to special advisers in his Department in each of the last five years. [320583]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Expenses incurred by special advisers are reimbursed in accordance with the principles set out in Civil Service Code, Civil Service Management Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers and the Department's guidance on travel and subsistence.

The information requested is set out in the table.

Financial year	£
2008-09	1,050
2007-08	680
2006-07	1,340
2005-06	1,150
2004-05	1,550

Departmental Public Expenditure

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what categories of his Department's expenditure generate a Barnett consequential for Wales. [321955]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 12 March 2010]:* The Department's expenditure that generates a Barnett consequential for Wales can be found in the Statement of Funding Policy on the Treasury's website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr_csr07_funding591.pdf

The categories of expenditure listed for DCMS are:

Administration
Arts
Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission
Libraries
Museums and Galleries
Museums, Libraries and Archives Council
Museum Reserves and GIS—Museums and Galleries
Occupied Palaces/Other Historic Buildings
Regional Cultural Consortia
Research Surveys and Other Services
Royal Parks
Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme
Sport and Recreation
Tourism (England).

National Heritage Memorial Fund

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the proposed 50 per cent. reduction in the budget of the National Heritage Memorial Fund on the operation of the Fund. [321667]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 11 March 2010]:* None. The budget of the National Heritage Memorial Fund has not been reduced by 50 per cent. Over 2009-10 and 2010-11 the NHMF will receive its expected level of funding which is £20 million.

Theatre: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tickets have been *(a)* made available and *(b)* used in relation to each theatre participating in the free theatre tickets scheme. [317186]

Margaret Hodge: Arts Council England has provided a regional breakdown of the number of tickets allocated and distributed to the 'A Night Less Ordinary' scheme between February 2009 and November 2009. Further information will be available in April. Details for individual theatres are commercially sensitive and therefore cannot be provided.

Region	*Ticket allocation*	*Ticket distribution*
East	3,721	2,033
East Midlands	7,751	7,125
London	61,165	38,942
National	3,008	2,247
North East	4,575	2,540
North West	30,579	15,083
South East	19,281	13,929
South West	10,549	7,770
West Midlands	22,818	20,208
Yorkshire	16,834	12,147
Total	180,281	122,024

This is an updated table which includes data from three venues that had not reported when figures were announced in January.

Tourism: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department plans to provide to promote the tourism opportunities provided by the London 2012 Olympics. [321916]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 12 March 2010]:* The Department is providing £130 million between 2008-09 and 2010-11 to VisitBritain (VB) and VisitEngland (VE) for marketing Britain as a tourist destination overseas and England as a tourist destination to the domestic market (and some overseas markets). In addition, public funding support for UK tourism from the Regional Development Agencies, local authorities, the Welsh Assembly and Scottish Executive also need to be taken into account. This is likely to exceed £2 billion in the current spending review period.

VB has recently launched its marketing strategy for 2012 which is currently resourced from the above allocation. In addition, public funding support for tourism supports programmes that focus on improving training and skills within the industry, the quality of accommodation and our welcome to the world. These are an integral part of the Government's strategy to help tourism maximise the opportunities presented by the 2012 games.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members' Staff: Pensions

Tony Lloyd: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what discussions the House of Commons Commission has had with the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority on the system of pensions for staff of hon. Members; and if the Commission will make it its policy to continue the Portcullis Pension Plan for staff alongside any new system of allowances and expenses for hon. Members brought in by the Authority. [322025]

Nick Harvey: The Speaker, on behalf of the Commission, discussed the future of the Portcullis Plan with the Interim Chief Executive of IPSA, Andrew McDonald, at their meeting on 16 February. The Commission has agreed that the House Service will continue to administer the Portcullis Pension Plan, including making it available to new members of Members' staff, subject to review when IPSA takes on some responsibility for Members' pensions. Members will fund the employer's contribution from their staffing budgets and the Chair of IPSA has said these will be set at a level which allows for appropriate pension contributions to be made. IPSA will make the necessary deductions from the staff payroll. IPSA has agreed to follow the House's current arrangements for the plan, under which a single standard employer contribution rate of 10 per cent. of total salary is paid; and staff are automatically enrolled in the plan unless they opt out. The House's Pensions Unit will liaise with IPSA officials to ensure co-ordination of their work. The Commission believes this agreement will provide reassurance to existing and new Members' staff, and to Members themselves.

Members: Allowances

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 837W, on Members: expenses, what the estimated cost is of each change of use of offices referred to in the answer; and from which budget this expenditure will come. [320974]

Nick Harvey: Planning for the series of moves which will culminate in the conversion of 1 Derby Gate into accommodation for use by Members and their staff is only at an early stage, and costs for the later projects in the series have yet to be worked up. The first leg, involving the move of the Department of Resources to Tothill street, will involve prior building work of around £3.9 million. The cost of removals is expected to be £77,000.

Nurseries

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 185W, on nurseries, whether the full business case for the replacement of Bellamy's Bar, the Astor Suite and Bellamy's Clubroom by a day nursery will be submitted to *(a)* the Finance and Services Committee and *(b)* the House of Commons Commission before any decision is taken to proceed with the works. [322376]

Nick Harvey: No. Neither the Finance and Services Committee nor the House of Commons Commission considers business cases. The Commission's decision that a nursery facility should be established is subject to the business case being approved by the Clerk of the House as Accounting Officer.

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the works proposed to convert Bellamy's Bar, the Astor Suite and Bellamy's Clubroom into a day nursery will be subject to competitive tender. [322398]

Nick Harvey: Yes.

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 185W, on nurseries, if he will place in the Library a copy of the full business case for the replacement of Bellamy's Bar, the Astor Suite and Bellamy's Clubroom by a day nursery with the commercially confidential information redacted. [322399]

Nick Harvey: No. It is not the practice to put business cases into the public domain.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of patients spent more than four hours in accident and emergency departments in Birmingham in each year since 1997. [321536]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. However, information on the percentage of patients in accident and emergency departments in Birmingham, that were seen within four hours, for 2003-10 is shown in the following table:

	Percentage of patients seen within four hours
2003-04	89.7
2004-05	96.8
2005-06	98.2
2006-07	98.2
2007-08	98.4
2008-09	97.9
2009-10	98.2

Note:
The hospitals these data relate to are: Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust, Good Hope Hospital NHS Trust, Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust
Source:
Department of Health dataset quarterly monitoring of accident and emergency

Cancer: Health Services

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of suspected cancer patients resident in *(a)* the City of Manchester and *(b)* Manchester Central constituency saw an NHS consultant within two weeks of referral in each year since 1997. [322292]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The information that is available is shown in the following table.

Number and percentage of suspected cancer patients seeing a consultant within two weeks of general practitioner (GP) referral

		Central Manchester University Hospitals National Health Service Foundation Trust		*Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust*		*University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust*		*The Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust*	
	Quarter	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2001-02	Q1	81	90.0	992	95.9	230	94.3	5	83.3
	Q2	68	85.0	1,072	94.9	277	93.9	0	0.0

Number and percentage of suspected cancer patients seeing a consultant within two weeks of general practitioner (GP) referral

		Central Manchester University Hospitals National Health Service Foundation Trust		Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust		University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust		The Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	
	Quarter	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
	Q3	100	93.5	1,100	98.1	282	95.9	3	100.0
	Q4	80	87.9	1,158	99.6	260	91.9	3	100.0
2002-03	Q1	95	88.0	1,215	98.8	230	92.4	5	83.3
	Q2	125	98.4	1,240	99.1	308	96.0	—	—
	Q3	165	100.0	1,325	98.4	497	99.8	6	85.7
	Q4	135	100.0	1,190	95.8	320	98.8	4	80.0
2003-04	Q1	109	100.0	1,214	92.2	336	97.1	3	75.0
	Q2	128	99.2	1,174	94.9	388	98.2	5	100.0
	Q3	151	100.0	1,276	97.6	371	99.2	3	100.0
	Q4	176	99.4	1,186	97.4	340	100.0	—	—
2004-05	Q1	170	100.0	1,263	98.6	428	99.8	—	—
	Q2	267	100.0	1,314	99.8	336	100.0	1	100.0
	Q3	275	99.6	1,475	100.0	388	99.7	—	—
	Q4	209	100.0	1,371	99.9	383	100.0	—	—
2005-06	Q1	274	100.0	1,567	100.0	466	100.0	1	100.0
	Q2	304	100.0	1,517	99.9	304	100.0	—	—
	Q3	298	100.0	1,505	100.0	430	100.0	—	—
	Q4	305	100.0	1,564	99.9	588	100.0	1	100.0
2006-07	Q1	334	100.0	1,746	99.9	615	99.8	1	100.0
	Q2	359	99.7	1,681	99.9	684	100.0	—	—
	Q3	374	99.7	1,857	100.0	744	100.0	—	—
	Q4	356	99.4	1,898	99.9	678	100.0	4	100.0
2007-08	Q1	391	100.0	1,795	100.0	813	100.0	2	100.0
	Q2	366	100.0	1,821	100.0	813	100.0	1	100.0
	Q3	220	100.0	1,873	100.0	846	99.9	1	100.0
	Q4	354	99.2	1,873	100.0	832	100.0	—	—
2008-09	Q1	431	99.8	2,182	100.0	881	100.0	—	—
	Q2	316	100.0	2,307	100.0	875	99.9	—	—
	Q3	325	100.0	2,065	99.9	870	99.8	1	100.0
	Q4	461	98.3	2,275	96.3	882	98.5	—	—
2009-10	Q1	476	93.7	2,217	95.1	1,087	97.1	1	100.0
	Q2	437	94.0	2,236	93.2	1,047	96.8	—	—
	Q3	386	96.5	1,987	94.9	1,058	97.7	—	—

Notes:

1. 2001-02 data for Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust are based on aggregate figures for hospital sites covering Rochdale, Bury, Oldham and North Manchester, which existed as separate hospital trusts at the time.

2. The methodology for collecting cancer waiting times data changed from 1 January 2009 to bring reporting in line with practice under the 18 weeks programme.

Source:

Department of Health, Cancer Waiting Times database.

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on its Health Technology Appraisal process in respect of rarer cancers. [322517]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of the end of life criteria used by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the level of patient access to treatments for rarer cancers; [322523]

(2) whether his Department provides guidance to National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence appraisal committees on the application of its end of life criteria. [322527]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The explicit criteria introduced in January 2009 by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to inform consideration of certain treatments that can extend life near the end of life, have been a factor in NICE's appraisal of several medicines. Further information can be found in the written answer I gave the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 8 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 708-10W.

The application of appraisal criteria to individual technology appraisals is a matter for NICE as an independent body. The Department has not issued any guidance to NICE appraisal committees on this matter.

Carbon Monoxide: Poisoning

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to encourage awareness of the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning among ambulance, paramedic and accident and emergency staff in the NHS. [322246]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Awareness of the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning is important for all clinicians in the national health service and the NHS locally should reflect this in guidance to staff and consider the need for appropriate training as part of their workforce plans.

Care Quality Commission: Public Appointments

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable has been set for the appointment of a new Chair of the Care Quality Commission. [322235]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The recruitment process is under way, in line with the procedures set out in the Commissioner for Public Appointments' guidance for such appointments.

The appointment is subject to a pre-appointment hearing by the Health Select Committee. It is, therefore, likely that the timing of the general election may affect the timetable for the appointment.

Community Health Services

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation he plans to undertake in developing the Transforming Community Services programme. [322047]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department works closely with a wide range of stakeholders to co-produce Transforming Community Services policies and guidance. For example, the programme's working groups include representation from strategic health authorities, clinicians and professional bodies.

Dental Services: North Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* gross expenditure including dental charges and *(b)* net expenditure was in respect of NHS general dental services in North Yorkshire and York in each year since 1996-97. [322129]

Ann Keen: Since 2006-07, data on primary dental care expenditure can be derived from primary care trust (PCT) financial records. This data reflects the new contract framework for primary dental care services introduced from 1 April 2006, based on the PCT areas introduced from 1 October 2006. It takes account of all relevant service costs for primary dental care services including those provided by dental providers under general dental service (GDS) or personal dental service (PDS) contracts. It is not directly comparable with the available pre-2006 data. Expenditure on primary dental care services in the North Yorkshire and York PCT since 2006-07 is shown in the following table.

Expenditure on primary dental care services in North Yorkshire and York PCT

£000

	Gross expenditure	*Dental charges paid by patients*	*Net expenditure*
2006-07	32,165	8,875	23,290
2007-08	32,089	8,879	23,210
2008-09	39,241	10,358	28,883

Source:
Calculated from details of gross primary dental care expenditure, and income from dental charges, recorded in the notes to the PCT's accounts.

Prior to April 2006, most primary dental care services were provided under former GDS arrangements. These were demand led services where the pattern of dental expenditure was largely determined by where dentists chose to practice and how much national health service work they chose to undertake.

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care holds local-level information on the expenditure for NHS primary dental care under the former GDS and PDS arrangements. Expenditure information for the financial years 1997-98 to 2005-06 is available for the following former PCTs: Selby and York; Hambleton and Richmondshire; Craven, Harrogate and Rural District; and Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale. This information is contained in the document 'Expenditure on General Dental Services and Personal Dental Services in North Yorkshire, 1997-98 to 2005-06', which has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* disciplinary and *(b)* capability procedures have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed in his Department in each of the last five years; how much time on average was taken to complete each type of procedure in each such year; how many and what proportion of his Department's staff were subject to each type of procedure in each such year; and how many and what proportion of each type of procedure resulted in the dismissal of the member of staff. [320630]

Phil Hope: The Department's disciplinary and capability procedures are followed as part of its absence management; poor performance and misconduct policies.

Prior to 2006 records were not held centrally for the core Department, and are not available. Since then the core Department has not dismissed any civil servants for poor performance, although other sanctions, including demotion, have been used. In the last year fewer than five individuals have been dismissed from the core Department for reasons other than performance.

The following table sets out the information for those staff who have been issued a disciplinary penalty under the three disciplinary streams. All action is undertaken within the prescribed timescales within the Department's policies.

	Total staff year average	*Performance*	*Absence*	*Conduct*
2006-07	2,250	32	Fewer than 5	6
2007-08	2,178	8	Fewer than 5	7
2008-09	2,222	9	Fewer than 5	Fewer than 5

Doctors and Nurses: Greater Manchester

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses were employed in the NHS in the city of Manchester in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009. [322293]

Ann Keen: The data is not available in the format requested. The information that is available is shown in the following table:

All doctors and qualified nursing staff in selected areas, as at 30 September 2002-07

Headcount

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Manchester Primary Care Trust (PCT)							
All doctors	348	391	365	399	395	452	440
Of which:							
Hospital and community health staff doctors (HCHS)	53	76	50	64	61	96	86
General practitioners (GPs)	295	315	315	335	334	356	354
Total qualified nursing staff	860	860	905	939	999	1,103	1,090
Of which:							
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	737	719	779	798	872	918	896
GP practice nurses	123	141	126	141	127	185	194
Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust							
HCHS doctors	831	850	901	915	1,005	813	979
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	2,383	2,622	2,686	2,856	2,999	3,103	3,274
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust							
HCHS doctors	919	696	839	965	1,013	1,218	1,225
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	2,922	3,221	3,303	3,360	3,079	4,119	3,264
Christie Hospital NHS Trust							
HCHS doctors	120	122	101	143	142	166	174
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	361	383	405	496	478	489	481
University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust							
HCHS doctors	529	525	534	565	573	597	566

All doctors and qualified nursing staff in selected areas, as at 30 September 2002-07

							Headcount
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,521	1,531	1,570	1,816	1,776	1,861	1,870

Notes:

1. Manchester PCT was created on 1 October 2006 following a merger of Central Manchester PCT, North Manchester PCT and South Manchester PCT. Figures prior to 2006 are an aggregate of the previous organisations. Due to mergers in organisations it is not possible to accurately map data back any further than 2002.

2. The Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust achieved foundation trust status on 1 January 2009 and is now known as the Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

3. The South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust achieved foundation trust status on 31 October 2006. It is now known as the University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust.

4. Data excludes medical health and personal care assistants, most of which are GPs working part-time in hospitals.

5. *Data Quality:*

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care—General and Personal Medical Services Statistics. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care—Medical and Dental Workforce Census. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care—Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Electronic Warfare

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects on the critical infrastructure of his Department of an electromagnetic pulse strike caused *(a)* deliberately and *(b)* through solar activity. [321754]

Phil Hope: The Department assesses a wide range of deliberate or accidental risks to its business critical services, as part of its business continuity arrangements. The Department's business continuity plans and response structure allow it to protect staff and continue critical business activities in the event of a major incident or business disruption.

General Practitioners

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England were seen by a general practitioner in each year since 1997. [321580]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Figures on the numbers of patients who were seen by a general practitioner (GP) are not collected. Data on the estimated number of GP consultations, based on a sample, in England and the number of GPs in England are available and shown as follows. Data on estimated annual number of consultations per GP have been calculated by dividing the estimated number of GP consultations in England by the number of GPs in England. Estimates broken down by strategic health authorities, primary care trusts or MPs' constituencies are also not available.

	Estimated number of GP consultations in England per year	*Number of GPs in England*[1]	*Estimated annual number of consultations per GP in England*
1997	163,200,000	28,046	5,819
1998	158,200,000	28,251	5,600
1999	155,500,000	28,467	5,462
2000	155,100,000	28,593	5,424
2001	161,900,000	28,802	5,621
2002	162,100,000	29,202	5,551
2003	168,900,000	30,358	5,564
2004	170,900,000	31,523	5,421
2005	175,400,000	32,738	5,358
2006	181,400,000	33,091	5,482
2007	185,300,000	33,364	5,554
2008	189,000,000	34,010	5,557

[1] Headcount—excluding registrars and retainers.

Source:

NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care/QResearch: Trends in Consultations Rates in General Practice 1995 to 2008: Analysis of the QResearch Database. The Information Centre for Health and Social Care, General and Personal Medical Services Statistics: Data as at 1 October 1997-99 and 30 September from 2000 onwards.

These data are published at the following websites:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/general-practice/trends-in-consultation-rates-in-general-practice--1995-2009

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/workforce/nhs-staff-numbers

General Practitioners: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made a recent estimate of the proportion of *(a)* general practice surgeries and *(b)* general practitioners in York who offer surgeries in the evening or at weekends. [322128]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. The latest published data shows that as at July 2009, in North Yorkshire and York primary care trust (PCT), 74.5 per cent. (73 of their 98) of general practitioner (GP) practices were offering access to routine GP appointments outside normal surgery opening hours.

Notes:

1. Data is not collected centrally on this availability in relation to individual GPs.

2. The figure for England is 77.1 per cent.

3. The figure for the Yorkshire and Humber strategic health authority is 76.9 per cent.

Source:

Department of Health

Health Services: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent in Birmingham in each year since 1997. [321535]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. However, information on the amount of national health service revenue expenditure by breakdown of primary care trust (PCT), and strategic health authority (SHA), in Birmingham, from 2002 to 2009, is shown in the following table:

Revenue expenditure

£000

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Eastern Birmingham PCT	241,983	262,121	294,845	340,396	—	—	—
North Birmingham PCT	146,742	169,819	192,454	203,826	—	—	—
Birmingham East and North PCT	—	—	—	—	557,203	597,876	639,980
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	276,808	311,411	353,961	399,782	440,141	473,273	518,687
South Birmingham PCT	338,983	382,939	429,695	468,932	510,745	551,552	592,208
Birmingham and the Black Country HA	227,026	176,330	187,513	195,670	—	—	—
West Midlands SHA	—	—	—	—	339,683	432,601	459,363
Total	1,231,542	1,302,620	1,458,468	1,608,606	1,847,772	2,055,302	2,210,238

Notes:

1. The PCT figures are taken from the audited summarisation schedules of Heart of Birmingham PCT, South Birmingham PCT and Birmingham East and North PCT.
2. Birmingham East and North PCT was formed following the merger of Eastern Birmingham PCT and North Birmingham PCT in 2006. The figures provided for 2002-03 to 2005-06 are the equivalent values in these two PCTs.
3. The SHA figures are taken from the audited summarisation schedules of West Midlands SHA (2006-07 to 2008-09) and Birmingham and The Black Country SHA (2002-03 to 2005-06).
4. Birmingham and The Black Country SHA covers a wider area than Birmingham alone, but it is not possible to disaggregate expenditure in the Birmingham area from the total expenditure of the SHA. West Midlands SHA was formed as part of the reconfiguration of SHAs in 2006 following the merger of three predecessor bodies including Birmingham and The Black Country SHA. Again, its expenditure covers a wider area than Birmingham alone but it is not possible to disaggregate expenditure in the Birmingham area from the total expenditure of the SHA.

Source:

Audited summarisation schedules, 2002-03 to 2008-09

Health Services: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many whole time equivalent NHS *(a)* general practitioners and *(b)* general dental practitioners worked at practices within the City of York local authority area (i) in 1997 and (ii) on the most recent data for which figures are available. [322106]

Ann Keen: The data are not available in the format requested. The data for dental workforce figures are only available on a headcount basis, and figures do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more national health service work than others. Headcount numbers of NHS dentists, in York, as at 31 March 1997 are available in the NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006 in Annex E. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This information can be obtained from the website for the Information Centre for health and social care at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

The headcount numbers of dentists with NHS activity during the year ending 31 March 2009, are available in the NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2008-09 report in Table G1 of Annex 3. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This information can be obtained from the website for The Information Centre for health and social care at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809

Copies of both publications have already been placed in the Library.

The information that is available for general practitioners is shown in the following table:

General Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) by selected area (full-time equivalents)

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Total Specified Organisations	430	436	434	436	441	450	473	465	484	503	491	485
North Yorkshire Health Authority	430	436	434	436	441	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Selby and York Primary Care Trust (PCT)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	161	168	172	183	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hambleton and Richmondshire PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	65	72	656	65	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

General Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) by selected area (full-time equivalents)

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Craven, Harrogate and Rural District PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	126	135	131	134	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	98	98	97	103	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Yorkshire and York PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	503	491	485

n/a = not applicable.

Notes:

1. North Yorkshire and York PCT was created on 1 October 2006 following a merger of Craven, Harrogate and Rural District PCT, Hambleton and Richmondshire PCT, Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale PCT and Selby and York PCT. Prior to 2002, the City of York was serviced by North Yorkshire Health Authority. This Health Authority may not map completely into the newly formed primary care trusts but has been provided here as background and appears consistent with subsequent aggregated PCT figures.

2. Data as at 1 October 1997-99 and 30 September 2000-08.

3. Totals may not equal sum of figures due to rounding.

4. *Data Quality:*

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

Hearing Impaired: Health Services

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what changes have been made to the level of funding provided for audiology training courses by strategic health authorities in England in the last 12 months; [321654]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to prevent strategic health authorities in England reducing the number of audiology training courses. [321656]

Ann Keen: Local national health service organisations are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health community and plan the workforce they need. Strategic health authorities are responsible for commissioning the correct number of training places to meet the needs of the local population.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to maintain the number of trained paediatric audiologists in the next three years. [321655]

Ann Keen: Working with stakeholders, we are developing a range of education and training programmes which will have a focus on audiology as part of Modernising Scientific Careers. These will encompass the needs of both adult and paediatric services. We are working with strategic health authorities to ensure a smooth transition to implementation.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what deaf awareness training is provided for NHS staff. [322360]

Ann Keen: The responsibility for setting education standards on pre-registration training courses for health professionals rests with the independent health regulatory bodies. The content and standards of postgraduate training for doctors is the responsibility of the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board. Ongoing training for all staff is the responsibility of employers, who are best placed to understand the training needs of their staff. Specific training courses in deaf awareness are available and are provided at a local level, according to need.

Hospitals: Construction

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals have been built in *(a)* South Tyneside, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [321586]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The number of major hospital schemes that have been built and opened in each year since 1997 is tabled as follows:

			Number
	South Tyneside	*The north-east*	*The rest of England*
1997	0	0	5
1998	0	0	4
1999	0	0	0
2000	0	0	6
2001	0	1	7
2002	0	1	13
2003	0	3	10
2004	0	1	10
2005	0	0	12
2006	0	1	17
2007	0	1	10
2008	0	1	6
2009	0	1	16
2010	0	1	0

There have been a number of smaller scale health service projects in the South Tyneside area which include The Washington primary care centre (capital cost £6 million) which opened in 2008; the Gateshead and South Tyneside Joint Assessment Unit (£4.5 million) and three other schemes at the South Tyneside primary care trust amounting to £9.5 million.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for a diagnostic test in Birmingham in each year since 1997. [321537]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the average waiting time for a diagnostic test in each year since April 2006 is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Month*	*Median wait (weeks)*
2006-07	April	5.2
2006-07	January	3.1
2007-08	January	1.9
2008-09	January	1.4
2009-10	January	1.7

Notes:
1. The median waiting time has been calculated as a total for all 15 diagnostic tests collected monthly
2. The median waiting time has been calculated as a total across Birmingham East and North Primary Care Trust, Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT and South Birmingham PCT.
3. Data prior to April 2006 are not available.

Source:
Department of Health, Knowledge and Intelligence, Commissioning and Systems Directorate.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were on waiting lists for hospital treatment in *(a)* South Tyneside, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [321584]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The data requested are shown in the following table.

Before 2003, South Tyneside Primary Care Trust (PCT) was part of Gateshead and South Tyneside Health Authority (HA), therefore these organisations are shown separately.

Total in-patients waiting at month end since 1997 (commissioner based)

	Gateshead and South Tyneside HA	*South Tyneside PCT*	*North East SHA*	*England*
March 1997	8,749	n/a	56,363	1,131,201
March 1998	8,988	n/a	57,618	1,276,965
March 1999	8,277	n/a	50,900	1,060,356
March 2000	8,068	n/a	48,619	1,024,654
March 2001	7,561	n/a	47,088	995,123
March 2002	7,332	n/a	48,612	1,021,604
March 2003	n/a	3,379	46,214	975,338
March 2004	n/a	3,043	41,617	890,205
March 2005	n/a	2,630	35,175	808,810
March 2006	n/a	3,052	34,696	771,100
March 2007	n/a	2,800	32,599	691,885
March 2008	n/a	2,136	25,977	526,223
March 2009	n/a	2,402	27,666	565,772
January 2010	n/a	2,674	32,155	632,108

Notes:
1. Data for South Tyneside PCT prior to March 2003 relate to Gateshead and South Tyneside HA.
2. Data for 2003 to 2006 for North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA) include previous SHAs: County Durham and Tees Valley and Northumberland Tyne and Wear.
3. Data prior to March 2003 for North East SHA relate to previous HAs: Tees, County Durham, Newcastle and North Tyneside, Gateshead and South Tyneside, Sunderland and Northumberland.

Source:
QF01 and monthly returns from PCTs and HAs

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people waited for over six months for NHS treatment in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [321585]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The data requested are shown in the following table.

Before 2003, South Tyneside Primary Care Trust (PCT) was part of Gateshead and South Tyneside Health Authority (HA), therefore these organisations are shown separately.

In-patients waiting longer than six months at month end since 1997 (commissioner based)

	Gateshead and South Tyneside HA	*South Tyneside PCT*	*North East SHA*	*England*
March 1997	2,562	n/a	12,473	283,866
March 1998	2,494	n/a	12,468	377,164
March 1999	2,301	n/a	9,880	276,752
March 2000	1,850	n/a	9,365	264,370
March 2001	1,497	n/a	8,765	242,953
March 2002	1,426	n/a	10,126	238,091
March 2003	n/a	346	7,819	189,045

In-patients waiting longer than six months at month end since 1997 (commissioner based)

	Gateshead and South Tyneside HA	*South Tyneside PCT*	*North East SHA*	*England*
March 2004	n/a	96	3,598	80,125
March 2005	n/a	23	1,482	40,843
March 2006	n/a	0	0	199
March 2007	n/a	0	0	352
March 2008	n/a	0	0	71
March 2009	n/a	0	0	114
January 2010	n/a	0	0	52

Notes:

1. Data for South Tyneside PCT prior to March 2003 relate to Gateshead and South Tyneside HA.
2. Data for 2003 to 2006 for North East SHA include previous SHAs: County Durham and Tees Valley and Northumberland Tyne and Wear.
3. Data prior to March 2003 for North East SHA relate to previous HAs: Tees, County Durham, Newcastle and North Tyneside, Gateshead and South Tyneside, Sunderland and Northumberland.
4. In-patient waiting times measured from decision to admit to admission.

Source:

QF01 and monthly returns from PCTs and HAs

Maternity Services

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received from the Royal College of Midwives on maternity services. [322252]

Ann Keen: No such recent representations have been received from the Royal College of Midwives (RCM). Ministers, the Chief Nursing Officer and other officials meet regularly with the RCM to discuss matters of mutual interest. I last met with Professor Cathy Warwick, general secretary of the RCM, on 20 January 2010.

Medical Records: Children

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether parents may opt out of the summary care record system on behalf of their children. [322229]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Current policy permits parents of children who are not yet competent to decide for themselves to request that their children are not provided with a summary care record. The decision about whether or not to create a summary care record for a child is made by the child's general practitioner, informed by the parent's wishes, acting in the best interests of the child. A small number of children have not been provided with a summary care record following parental requests.

The policy is presently being reviewed in the context of the safeguarding children agenda, in consultation with the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the National Information Governance Board.

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 193W, on NHS foundation trusts, what assessment his Department made of mortality rates at Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust when it assessed the Trust's application for foundation status. [322368]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department's consideration of applications for foundation trust status is about reviewing an organisation's readiness for proceeding to the final stage of assessment. This final stage of applying to become a foundation trust is a detailed assessment undertaken by the independent regulator of foundation trusts in accordance with the relevant legislation.

When the Department considered the application from Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust (now Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust) for foundation trust status, assurance was gained on the quality of care being provided via analysis of the trusts performance against key national standards. This included assessment against accident and emergency and hospital waiting time standards as well as the consideration of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Clostridium difficile* rates at the organisation. The Department's review did not include an explicit review of hospital standardised mortality rates.

The Department's assessment processes have since evolved and now include an explicit consideration of hospital standardised mortality rates, alongside other care quality indicators such as patient surveys and safety indicators. Since April 2009 the Department's assessment has also included the consideration of each application by the NHS Medical Director, whose support is required prior to an application being able to proceed to Monitor for assessment to foundation trust status. The NHS Medical Director considers a range of quality related intelligence, including hospital standardised mortality rates, in forming their view on each trust.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much NHS funding has been allocated to *(a)* South Tyneside, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [321583]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Revenue allocations were first made to primary care trusts (PCTs) in 2003-04. Before that, revenue allocations were made to health authorities (HAs).

Table 1 shows revenue allocations to Gateshead and South Tyneside HA, the total revenue allocations made to HAs covered by North East strategic health authority (SHA), and England total, from 1996-97 to 2002-03.

Table 1: Revenue allocations to health authorities (HAs) 1996-97 to 2002-03

£ million

	HA revenue allocations						
	1996-97	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*
Gateshead and South Tyneside HA	170.9	178.4	187.6	255.5	278.2	300.8	332.5
North East SHA	1,178.2	1,226.7	1,294.0	1,768.8	1,936.3	2,102.3	2,321.1
England	20,886.0	21,816.4	22,895.3	31,192.9	34,234.9	37,157.4	41,468.5

Note:
Revenue allocations are not always comparable between years because of changes to baseline funding.
Source:
Financial Planning and Allocations Division, Department of Health.

Table 2 shows PCT revenue allocations from 2003-04 to 2010-11 made to Gateshead PCT and South Tyneside PCT (both formed from Gateshead and South Tyneside HA), the total revenue allocations made to PCTs covered by the North East SHA and England total.

Table 2: Revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) 2003-04 to 2010-11

£ million

	PCT revenue allocations							
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Gateshead PCT	202.6	222.2	242.7	286.7	313.3	330.4	357.2	376.6
South Tyneside PCT	158.3	173.8	190.0	223.0	243.8	257.1	279.3	294.0
North East SHA	2,516.1	2,756.9	3,009.6	3,588.1	3,920.7	4,134.8	4,452.9	4,694.6
England	45,027.2	49,328.2	53,925.0	64,309.6	70,354.7	74,197.5	80,030.7	84,432.4

Note:
Revenue allocations are not always comparable between years because of changes to baseline funding. For example allocations from 2006-07 include primary medical services funding.
Source:
Financial Planning and Allocations Division, Department of Health.

NHS: Procurement

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons primary care trusts in the East of England have been instructed to suspend procurement; and when they will be allowed to restart procurement. [321545]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: All primary care trusts (PCTs) including those in the East of England are required to review their plans for future provision of community services under a new assurance and approval process, as set out in guidance published 5 February.[1] A copy has already been placed in the Library.

[1] Transforming Community Services: The assurance and approval process for PCT-provided community services (Department of Health, February 2010)

Patients: Safety

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths resulted from each type of patient safety incident in each year between 1997 and 2005. [321763]

Ann Keen: The following table provides the number of patient safety incidents associated with the death of a patient that were submitted to the National Patient Safety Agency's Reporting and Learning System each year for the period from the 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006, broken down by type of incident.

The National Patient Safety Agency was set up in 2001. The Reporting and Learning System was piloted in 2002-03 but not all national health service trusts were reporting before the end of 2004. Information about the number of patient safety incidents associated with death in 2004 is not included because of the low number of incidents submitted to the Reporting and Learning System prior to that date and the unreliability of the information available.

Reported incidents that occurred between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006

Incident type	*Number/percentage*
Deaths	2,275
All incident types	596,138
Percentage of incident types reported as deaths	0.4

Source:
National Patient Safety Agency.

Reported incidents that occurred between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006, broken down by incident type

Incident type	*Number*
Access, admission, transfer, discharge (including missing patient)	111
Clinical assessment (including diagnosis, scans, tests, assessments)	109
Consent, communication, confidentiality	50
Disruptive, aggressive behaviour	12
Documentation (including records, identification)	11
Infection Control Incident	18
Implementation of care and ongoing monitoring/review	55
Infrastructure (including staffing, facilities, environment)	38
Medical device/equipment	32
Medication	37
Patient abuse (by staff/third party)	5
Patient accident	100
Self-harming behaviour	419
Treatment, procedure	237
Other	1,041
Total	2,275

York Hospital: Manpower

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many whole time equivalent *(a)* medical consultants, *(b)* other doctors, *(c)* nurses and midwives and *(d)* other health professionals were employed at York Hospital in 1997, excluding posts subsequently transferred to York Primary Care Trust; and how many were employed in each category on the most recent date for which figures are available. [322107]

Ann Keen: The data are not available in the format requested. The following table shows national health service staff at the York Hospitals NHS Trust by main staff group as at 30 September each specified year. The figures quoted for 1997 include posts that subsequently transferred to Selby and York Primary Care Trust (PCT), as these cannot be separately identified.

NHS staff at York Hospitals NHS Trust (full time equivalent)

	1997	*2008*
All hospital and community health services (HCHS) medical and dental consultants	102	157
of which medical consultant	97	152
All HCHS other medical and dental staff	159	217
of which medical other	153	208
All non-medical staff	3,399	3,232
Professionally qualified clinical staff	1,771	1,513
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,362	1,030
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	409	483
Qualified Allied Health Professions	228	231
Qualified Healthcare Scientists	n/a	138
Other Qualified Scientific, therapeutic and technical (ST and T) staff	181	114
Support to clinical staff	1,021	885
Support to doctors and nursing staff	915	670
Support to ST and T staff	105	215
NHS infrastructure support	602	834
Central functions	166	307
Hotel, property and estates	344	457
Managers and senior managers	92	70
Other staff or those with unknown classification	6	0

n/a = Not applicable. Figures for healthcare scientists were not separately identifiable until 2003.

Notes:

1. Full-time equivalent figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.
2. *Data Quality*

Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Sources:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

JUSTICE

Burglary: Convictions

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of domestic burglary offences committed in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since 1997. [321621]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of persons found guilty at all courts in the North East Government Office Region (GOR) and England and Wales for domestic burglary offences, from 1997 to 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in the table. Centrally held court proceedings data do not identify the circumstances of each case and it is therefore not possible to separately identify in which areas offences of burglary in a dwelling were committed.

Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level. Data are given in the table for the North East GOR in which the Jarrow constituency and South Tyneside are located.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication in autumn, 2010.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for burglary in a dwelling offences[1] in the North East Government Office Region (GOR)[2] and England and Wales, 1997 to 2008[3,4]

Area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008[5]*
England and Wales	17,870	17,306	16,387	14,471	13,684	14,622	14,540	13,503	12,820	12,442	13,138	13,471
Of which:												
North East GOR	1,474	1,423	1,307	1,004	1,091	1,206	1,007	790	776	767	827	786

[1] Includes burglary, and aggravated burglary, in a dwelling—Theft Act 1968 sections 9, 9(1)(a), 9(1)(b), 10.
[2] Includes:
Cleveland police force area;
Durham police force area;
Northumbria police force area.
[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[5] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Crimes of Violence: Convictions

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of offences related to *(a)* violent crime and *(b)* serious violent crime in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) England and Wales in each year since 1997. [321591]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of persons found guilty at all courts in the north-east Government office region (GOR) and England and Wales for offences of violence against the person, from 1997 to 2008 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level. Data are given in the table for the north-east GOR in which the Jarrow constituency and South Tyneside are located.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned to be published in the autumn 2010.

Persons found guilty at all courts for violence against the person offences in the north-east Government office region (GOR)[1], and England and Wales, 1997 to 2008[2, 3]

Number

Area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[4]
England and Wales												
more serious offences[5]	3,283	3,173	2,915	2,825	2,908	3,201	3,195	3,554	3,589	3,243	3,453	3,424
less serious offences[6]	31,279	33,877	32,785	32,445	32,390	34,507	34,841	35,595	37,340	38,622	38,498	38,095
common assault	20,636	24,110	26,406	26,262	26,610	28,949	32,282	38,330	44,745	49,260	52,693	52,319
of which:												
North-east GOR												
more serious offences[5]	236	236	181	169	167	203	219	214	220	206	225	202
less serious offences[6]	2,119	2,319	2,322	2,204	2,260	2,328	2,208	2,163	2,387	2,554	2,707	2,578
common assault	936	1,050	1,258	1,216	1,140	1,351	1,615	1,869	2,006	2,198	2,885	2,676

[1] Includes: Cleveland police force area Durham police force area Northumbria police force area.
[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.
[5] Includes: murder, attempted murder, threat or conspiracy to murder, manslaughter, infanticide, child destruction, causing death by dangerous driving, manslaughter due to diminished responsibility, causing death by careless driving under the influence of drink or drugs, causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable person, causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving, causing death by driving,—unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured drivers, causing death by aggravated vehicle taking, wounding or other act endangering life, endangering railway passenger.
[6] Includes: endangering life at sea, other wounding etc. (including offences of assaults occasioning actual bodily harm and wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm), cruelty to or neglect of children, abandoning child aged under two years, child abduction, procuring illegal abortion, concealment of birth.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Drugs: Crime

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of offences related to drugs in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since 1997. [321593]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of persons found guilty at all courts in the North East Government Office Region (GOR) and England and Wales for drugs offences, from 1997 to 2008 (latest available) can be found in the table.

Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level. Data are given in the table for the North East GOR in which the Jarrow constituency and South Tyneside are located.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication in autumn, 2010.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for drug offences in the North East Government Office Region (GOR)[1] and England and Wales, 1997to2008[2,3]

Area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
England and Wales	40,666	48,821	48,711	44,621	45,621	49,036	51,162	39,197	39,090	39,582	44,565	52,941
Of which:												
North East GOR	1,526	2,194	2,528	2,773	3,340	3,624	3,816	2,687	2,759	2,734	2,667	2,626

[1] Includes:
Cleveland police force area;
Durham police force area;
Northumbria police force area.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Electoral Register

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his estimate is of the public expenditure cost nationally and locally of implementing the Government's announcement in April 2008 that address information held on the Electoral Register must be reviewed, checked and matched against a national address database. [321670]

Mr. Wills: The Electoral Registration Data Standards Direction of April 2008 was made by the Secretary of State pursuant to the provisions of section 52(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 on the recommendation of the Electoral Commission.

The Direction requires all electoral registration officers to ensure that all data stored by them in electronic systems complies with a set of minimum standards from 1 December 2009. In order to comply with the standards, Electoral Registration Officers must ensure address data is formatted according to the requirement of British Standard BS7666:2006 and must match the detail of electors' addresses with the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) in England and Wales, or in Scotland, the Corporate Address Gazetteers (CAG). The Government have made funding available to Electoral Registration Officers to enable them to meet the costs of compliance.

The Electoral Registration Data Standards can enable local authorities to make efficiency savings through the creation of a single source of addressing information for all of the authority's services. That is because where local authorities take advantage of this the need for multiple entry of address data can be eliminated, reducing costs and inaccuracy. Information about address changes gathered through electoral registration activity throughout the year also ensures that the addresses recorded in local authority systems and in the NLPG and CAG continue to be as accurate and up to date as possible. This can be of particular benefit where the NLPG or CAG are used by the emergency services.

The maximum amount of funding made available to support implementation of the data standards nationally and locally is set out in Tables 1 and 2 respectively. Local authorities in England and Wales and Valuation Joint Boards in Scotland are able to access the grant in aid through a claim process specified by the Secretary of State. Because this claim process will not be completed until 31 March 2010, the final amount paid out will not be known until after this date.

Table 1: Local authorities England and Wales

Local authority	*Maximum grant (£)*
Adur District Council	3,933
Allerdale Borough Council	5,813
Alnwick District Council	5,849
Amber Valley Borough Council	3,971
Arun District Council	4,622
Ashfield District Council	3,933
Ashford Borough Council	4,736
Aylesbury Vale District Council	5,475
Babergh District Council	4,134
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	5,417
Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council	5,744
Basildon District Council	5,728
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	4,241
Bassetlaw District Council	4,134
Bath and North East Somerset Council	5,431
Bedford Borough Council	4,340
Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council	6,436
Birmingham City Council	14,107
Blaby District Council	4,738
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	4,942
Blackpool Council	4,251
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	5,926
Blyth Valley Borough Council	4,835
Bolsover District Council	3,738
Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council	5,691
Boston Borough Council	3,885
Bournemouth Borough Council	9,542
Bracknell Forest Borough Council	3,829
Braintree District Council	5,380
Breckland Council	4,242
Brentwood Borough Council	3,877
Bridgend County Borough Council	5,270
Bridgnorth District Council	3,934
Brighton and Hove City Council	5,496
Bristol City Council	7,030
Broadland District Council	4,271
Bromsgrove District Council	4,409
Broxbourne Borough Council	18,526
Broxtowe Borough Council	3,714
Burnley Borough Council	4,013
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council	19,839
Caerphilly County Borough Council	4,902
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council	4,633
Cambridge City Council	5,896
Cannock Chase District Council	3,615
Canterbury City Council	4,304
Caradon District Council	6,328
Cardiff County Council	7,717
Carlisle City Council	4,239
Carmarthenshire County Council	6,316
Carrick District Council	4,292

Table 1: Local authorities England and Wales

Local authority	*Maximum grant (£)*
Castle Morpeth Borough Council	4,845
Castle Point Borough Council	3,925
Ceredigion County Council	24,077
Charnwood Borough Council	4,208
Chelmsford Borough Council	4,228
Cheltenham Borough Council	6,508
Cherwell District Council	4,874
Chester City Council	4,768
Chesterfield Borough Council	3,802
Chester-le-Street District Council	3,706
Chichester District Council	3,984
Chiltern District Council	3,628
Chorley Borough Council	5,886
Christchurch Borough Council	3,670
City and County of Swansea	5,227
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council	6,822
City of York Council	4,632
Colchester Borough Council	4,274
Congleton Borough Council	4,292
Conwy County Borough Council	5,744
Copeland Borough Council	3,615
Corby Borough Council	3,539
Corporation of London	3,889
Cotswold District Council	4,480
Council of The Isles of Scilly	5,746
Coventry City Council	5,835
Craven District Council	4,219
Crawley Borough Council	4,139
Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council	19,189
Cyngor Gwynedd	6,655
Cyngor Sir Ynys Mon	9,526
Dacorum Borough Council	4,447
Darlington Borough Council	3,642
Dartford Borough Council	3,615
Daventry District Council	3,807
Denbighshire County Council	3,849
Derby City Council	6,068
Derbyshire Dales District Council	5,766
Derwentside District Council	4,017
District of Easington	3,695
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	5,678
Dover District Council	4,137
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	6,130
Durham City Council	3,620
East Cambridgeshire District Council	4,054
East Devon District Council	5,830
East Dorset District Council'	3,667
East Hampshire District Council	4,574
East Herts Council	6,459
East Lindsey District Council	8,081
East Northamptonshire District Council	3,558
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	5,360
East Staffordshire Borough Council	3,621
Eastbourne Borough Council	5,882
Eastleigh Borough Council	3,528
Eden District Council	6,756
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council	5,824
Elmbridge Borough Council	5,750
Epping Forest District Council	5,609
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council	3,644
Erewash Borough Council	4,160
Exeter City Council	3,646
Fareham Borough Council	3,521
Fenland District Council	5,877
Flintshire County Council	5,772
Forest Heath District Council	3,621
Forest of Dean District Council	5,349
Fylde Borough Council	4,387
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council	4,946
Gedling Borough Council	3,663
Gloucester City Council	3,985
Gosport Borough Council	3,594
Gravesham Borough Council	3,781
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	6,844
Guildford Borough Council	5,355
Halton Borough Council	3,950
Hambleton District Council	3,836
Harborough District Council	4,328
Harlow District Council	3,947
Harrogate Borough Council	5,024
Hart District Council	5,782
Hartlepool Borough Council	3,559
Hastings Borough Council	3,856
Havant Borough Council	3,729
Herefordshire Council	4,489
Hertsmere Borough Council	6,286
High Peak Borough Council	3,615
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	3,992
Horsham District Council	3,935
Huntingdonshire District Council	4,303
Hyndburn Borough Council	3,758
Ipswich Borough Council	3,650
Isle of Wight Council	4,685
Kennet District Council	3,629
Kerrier District Council	4,706
Kettering Borough Council	3,873
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council	6,074
Kingston upon Hull City Council	4,381
Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council	5,917
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	5,198
Lancaster City Council	5,141
Leeds City Council	14,834
Leicester City Council	5,293
Lewes District Council	3,948
Lichfield District Council	3,676
Lincoln City Council	4,978
Liverpool City Council	8,387
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	4,768
London Borough of Barnet	6,173
London Borough of Bexley	4,384
London Borough of Brent	6,539
London Borough of Bromley	5,468
London Borough of Camden	6,443
London Borough of Croydon	6,525
London Borough of Ealing	5,360
London Borough of Enfield	5,295
London Borough of Greenwich	5,240
London Borough of Hackney	4,644

Table 1: Local authorities England and Wales

Local authority	*Maximum grant (£)*
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham	5,434
London Borough of Haringey	4,531
London Borough of Harrow	5,215
London Borough of Havering	4,467
London Borough of Hillingdon	4,227
London Borough of Hounslow	7,303
London Borough of Islington	5,761
London Borough of Lambeth	6,167
London Borough of Lewisham	5,576
London Borough of Merton	5,672
London Borough of Newham	4,643
London Borough of Redbridge	4,623
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames	4,454
London Borough of Southwark	4,316
London Borough of Sutton	4,765
London Borough of Tower Hamlets	6,421
London Borough of Waltham Forest	6,055
Luton Borough Council	6,469
Macclesfield Borough Council	5,445
Maidstone Borough Council	5,968
Maldon District Council	3,523
Malvern Hills District Council	6,534
Manchester City Council	9,390
Mansfield District Council	3,615
Medway Council	4,869
Melton Borough Council	4,097
Mendip District Council	4,054
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	6,645
Mid Bedfordshire District Council	4,308
Mid Devon District Council	3,615
Mid Suffolk District Council	4,772
Mid Sussex District Council	3,793
Middlesbrough Council	4,412
Milton Keynes Council	4,309
Mole Valley District Council	3,629
Monmouthshire County Council	7,127
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	4,308
New Forest District Council	4,310
Newark and Sherwood District Council	4,156
Newcastle upon Tyne City Council	5,945
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council	4,164
Newport City Council	3,734
North Cornwall District Council	5,285
North Devon District Council	5,183
North Dorset District Council	4,521
North East Derbyshire District Council	3,668
North East Lincolnshire Council	7,258
North Hertfordshire District Council	4,843
North Kesteven District Council	4,083
North Lincolnshire Council	5,029
North Norfolk District Council	7,221
North Shropshire District Council	6,090
North Somerset Council	4,463
North Tyneside Council	4,750
North Warwickshire Borough Council	18,634
North West Leicestershire District Council	4,102
North Wiltshire District Council	6,776
Northampton Borough Council	4,854
Norwich City Council	5,887
Nottingham City Council	4,321
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council	3,579
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council	4,216
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	19,339
Oswestry Borough Council	3,872
Oxford City Council	4,208
Pembrokeshire County Council	4,112
Pendle Borough Council	5,640
Penwith District Council	18,720
Peterborough City Council	4,461
Plymouth City Council	7,104
Poole Borough Council	4,282
Portsmouth City Council	6,589
Powys County Council	12,091
Preston City Council	4,128
Purbeck District Council	4,767
Reading Borough Council	5,841
Redcar and Cleveland Council	4,235
Redditch Borough Council	3,618
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council	4,064
Restormel Borough Council	3,768
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	6,274
Ribble Valley Borough Council	5,237
Richmondshire District Council	5,828
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council	6,672
Rochford District Council	3,631
Rossendale Borough Council	3,782
Rother District Council	4,403
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	4,563
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	4,649
Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	5,411
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	5,864
Rugby Borough Council	3,686
Runnymede Borough Council	5,788
Rushcliffe Borough Council	4,294
Rushmoor Borough Council	3,615
Rutland County Council	4,451
Ryedale District Council	3,666
Salford City Council	4,996
Salisbury District Council	3,609
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	5,499
Scarborough Borough Council	6,710
Sedgefield Borough Council	3,552
Sedgemoor District Council	3,776
Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council	8,010
Selby District Council	3,648
Sevenoaks District Council	4,119
Sheffield City Council	6,656
Shepway District Council	4,995
Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council	4,468
Slough Borough Council	5,745
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	4,328
South Bedfordshire District Council	3,661
South Bucks District Council	3,991
South Cambridgeshire District Council	4,307

Table 1: Local authorities England and Wales

Local authority	*Maximum grant (£)*
South Derbyshire District Council	3,616
South Gloucestershire Council	4,263
South Hams District Council	3,663
South Holland District Council	4,330
South Kesteven District Council	4,372
South Lakeland District Council	7,820
South Norfolk District Council	4,202
South Northamptonshire Council	3,634
South Oxfordshire District Council	5,967
South Ribble Borough Council	5,748
South Shropshire District Council	5,771
South Somerset District Council	5,025
South Staffordshire Council	4,143
South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council	4,626
Southampton City Council	5,611
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	5,316
Spelthorne Borough Council	5,744
St. Albans City and District Council	6,656
St. Edmundsbury Borough Council	3,794
St. Helens Council	5,235
Stafford Borough Council	4,299
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	3,519
Stevenage Borough Council	3,933
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	6,234
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	4,208
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	4,400
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	7,409
Stroud District Council	3,704
Suffolk Coastal District Council	5,744
Sunderland City Council	6,909
Surrey Heath Borough Council	3,573
Swale Borough Council	3,657
Swindon Borough Council	4,234
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council	4,492
Tamworth Borough Council	3,979
Tandridge District Council	3,933
Taunton Deane Borough Council	4,434
Teesdale District Council	5,873
Teignbridge District Council	5,073
Telford and Wrekin Council	4,720
Tendring District Council	4,453
Test Valley Borough Council	3,763
Tewkesbury Borough Council	4,610
Thanet District Council	3,624
Three Rivers District Council	3,990
Thurrock Council	4,964
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	3,728
Torbay Council	5,484
Torfaen County Borough Council	4,001
Torridge District Council	6,025
Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council	4,694
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	4,214
Tynedale District Council	4,764
Uttlesford District Council	4,788
Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council	3,953
Vale of White Horse District Council	5,885
Vale Royal Borough Council	4,378
Wakefield Metropolitan District Council	6,273
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council	7,284
Wandsworth Borough Council	5,783
Wansbeck District Council	4,077
Warrington Borough Council	4,852
Warwick District Council	3,748
Watford Borough Council	5,942
Waveney District Council	3,895
Waverley Borough Council	4,315
Wealden District Council	5,626
Wear Valley District Council	3,812
Wellingborough Borough Council	4,415
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council	4,373
West Berkshire Council	4,556
West Devon Borough Council	4,015
West Dorset District Council	4,755
West Lancashire District Council	3,726
West Lindsey District Council	3,632
West Oxfordshire District Council	3,804
West Somerset District Council	5,093
West Wiltshire District Council	6,110
Westminster City Council	4,874
Weymouth and Portland Borough Council	3,762
Wigan Council	5,962
Winchester City Council	3,739
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council	7,847
Woking Borough Council	3,519
Wokingham District Council	5,137
Wolverhampton City Council	4,353
Worcester City Council	5,231
Worthing Borough Council	3,935
Wrexham County Borough Council	5,402
Wychavon District Council	3,876
Wycombe District Council	6,433
Wyre Borough Council	3,826
Wyre Forest District Council	4,488
Total	1,958,321

Table 2: Valuation Joint Boards in Scotland

Joint Valuation Board	*Maximum payment (£)*
Central Scotland	22,588
Dunbartonshire	23,370
Lanarkshire	46,443
Ayrshire	27,515
Highland	20,120
Orkney and Shetland	4,424
Grampian	44,434
Tayside	30,327
Dumfries and Galloway	26,729
Fife	26,746
Lothian	58,120
Glasgow	46,152
Renfrewshire	35,576
Scottish Borders	9,581
Total	422,125

Electronic Warfare

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effects of an electromagnetic pulse strike caused *(a)* deliberately and *(b)* through solar activity on the critical infrastructure of his Department. [321760]

Mr. Wills: We regularly review our business continuity and resilience plans, informed by assessments made by central agencies. Our plans provide for a flexible response to disruption of infrastructure and critical activities from the range of threats and hazards. For security reasons we do not disclose assessment of individual threat sources or of any particular vulnerability. We recognise that the potential hazard posed by solar activity is expected to increase in 2012 and we will be reviewing this threat when further scientific evidence becomes available.

National Offender Management Service: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding was provided in Birmingham for *(a)* the Probation Service, *(b)* youth offending teams and *(c)* the National Offender Management Service in each year since 1997. [321579]

Maria Eagle: Neither the National Probation Service nor the National Offender Management Service has allocated funding specifically for Birmingham.

The National Probation Service was established in April 2001 and has allocated funding to the West Midlands Probation Area, which includes Birmingham, as shown in the following table. Before April 2001 the probation services were delivered by local authorities and details of funding allocations are not held centrally.

	£
Financial Year	
2001-02	37,865,000
2002-03	38,581,000
2003-04	41,932,000
2004-05	44,076,000
2005-06	50,140,000
2006-07	53,377,000
2007-08	55,055,000
2008-09	59,331,000
2009-10	57,484,000

The Youth Justice Board, which was established in October 1998, has allocated funding to the Birmingham Youth Offending Team as shown in the following table.

	£
Financial Year	
1999-00	428,547
2000-01	901,804
2001-02	1,905,535
2002-03	2,512,812
2003-04	1,933,682
2004-05	2,447,030
2005-06	3,095,862
2006-07	3,131,725
2007-08	3,281,517
2008-09	3,755,001
2009-10	3,630,285

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many assaults that resulted in *(a)* serious injury and *(b)* hospitalisation took place in English and Welsh prisons in each year since 2006. [321744]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has a responsibility to keep prisoners, staff and visitors safe. The management of violence and its reduction, including support for staff, is central to successful prison management. It is fundamental to NOMS objectives and vital to achieving the broad aims of safer custody.

Every establishment, whether private or public, has a local violence reduction strategy which engages all staff, all disciplines and prisoners in challenging unacceptable behaviour, problem-solving and personal safety. This includes environmental and physical measures, as well as alternative ways of managing behaviour.

The information requested is shown in the following table. The NOMS uses data drawn from large administrative databases which capture a wide range of information recorded locally by individual prisons. Data for 2009 are currently being checked and validated.

Assault Incidents	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Total assaults resulting in serious injury	1,057	1,148	1,177
Serious injury and in-patient admission	183	161	184
Other assaults not serious injury resulting in in-patient admission	52	49	49
Total assaults resulting in in-patient admission	235	210	233

Prisons: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Prison Service Order 1300 formal investigations have taken place in each prison in each year since 2006. [321745]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of formal investigations conducted under Prison Service Order 1300 in each prison, in each year, since 2006 is provided in the following table.

Establishment	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Acklington	7	8	16	12	1
Albany	1	1	0	2	0
Altcourse	0	0	0	0	0
Ashfield	0	0	0	0	0
Ashwell	5	6	18	10	3
Askham Grange	3	3	2	2	0
Aylesbury	13	15	15	15	5
Bedford	14	5	10	8	0
Belmarsh	12	15	45	38	10
Birmingham	40	44	8	31	7
Blantyre House	0	1	4	1	0
Blundeston	6	7	7	6	4
Brinsford	12	5	12	15	7
Bristol	12	10	8	5	0
Brixton	45	44	78	86	12
Bronzefield	0	1	0	0	0

Establishment	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Buckley Hall	12	16	10	8	1
Bullingdon	13	12	14	14	6
Bullwood Hall	11	4	3	6	0
Bure	0	0	0	0	2
Camp Hill	6	7	7	2	0
Canterbury (incl. foreign nationals)	8	10	4	3	3
Cardiff	21	12	14	18	1
Castington	1	6	7	2	2
Channings Wood	4	13	12	13	2
Chelmsford	6	17	11	9	4
Coldingley	7	10	10	7	3
Cookham Wood	3	4	9	3	1
Dartmoor	15	17	20	19	6
Deerbolt	4	7	9	16	6
Doncaster	0	0	0	0	0
Dorchester	2	7	8	13	1
Dover Immigration Removal Centre	6	2	5	5	0
Downview	1	9	4	8	0
Drake Hall	3	1	0	4	0
Durham	10	12	31	13	6
East Sutton Park	0	0	0	6	0
Eastwood Park	9	4	7	10	2
Edmunds Hill	9	11	7	5	0
Elmley	23	22	27	4	2
Erlestoke	12	18	14	11	3
Everthorpe	4	13	10	3	3
Exeter	0	2	6	6	1
Featherstone	16	12	14	13	4
Feltham	29	22	29	40	8
Ford	3	4	4	7	4
Foston Hall	6	5	12	11	2
Frankland	15	3	15	12	2
Full Sutton	11	11	23	79	2
Garth	10	7	20	17	5
Gartree	10	16	11	20	2
Glen Parva	10	9	15	11	5
Gloucester	2	4	6	8	0
Grendon	6	0	7	11	5
Guys Marsh	15	21	14	29	7
Haslar Immigration Removal Centre	4	8	7	1	0
Haverigg Camp	6	13	13	1	0
Headquarters	21	19	54	68	18
Hewell (Houseblocks 1-8)	30	24	16	20	3
High Down	13	19	20	23	6
Highpoint	4	12	8	10	1
Hindley	12	17	19	16	2
Hollesley Bay	3	4	2	3	1
Holloway	37	22	3	5	1
Holme House	3	2	7	18	2
Hull	15	27	5	6	0
Huntercombe	3	8	11	0	0
Isis	0	0	0	2	0
Isle of Wight	0	0	0	7	2
Kennet	0	2	6	11	2
Kingston	3	5	12	15	2
Kirkham	10	5	6	4	0
Kirklevington	3	2	6	6	0
Lancaster Castle	2	5	11	6	3
Lancaster Farms	7	12	17	14	5
Latchmere House	3	1	1	0	1
Leeds	13	19	10	7	1
Leicester	3	3	6	11	3
Lewes	6	19	10	14	1
Leyhill	1	4	8	4	0
Lincoln	13	13	11	13	5
Lindholme	4	10	20	12	2
Littlehey	9	13	1	13	4
Liverpool	10	23	21	23	4
Long Lartin	12	7	26	46	8
Low Newton	2	8	17	20	2
Lowdham Grange	0	0	0	0	0
Maidstone	15	19	19	13	2
Manchester	26	32	56	17	8
Moorland Closed	1	6	9	13	1
Moorland Open	0	2	1	0	0
Morton Hall	4	6	2	5	1
New Hall	13	13	7	6	6
North Sea Camp	5	7	6	9	4
Northallerton	4	10	12	10	0
Norwich	7	9	9	8	1
Nottingham	6	15	10	11	4
Onley	9	32	11	12	6
Parkhurst	6	14	9	6	0
Pentonville	51	52	27	11	0
Portland	4	4	10	6	3
Preston	13	11	22	16	5
Ranby	24	17	35	20	5
Reading	9	14	5	6	1
Risley	22	10	16	7	4
Rochester	7	9	9	20	2
Send	5	10	6	16	3
Shepton Mallet	1	2	1	1	0
Shrewsbury	1	5	6	4	1
Stafford	21	14	4	8	4
Standford Hill	3	8	10	3	1
Stocken	8	5	3	1	2
Stoke Heath	20	11	26	13	5
Styal	7	7	5	0	0
Sudbury	1	3	11	6	1
Swaleside	15	15	12	8	1
Swansea	4	8	9	2	0
Swinfen Hall	9	9	5	15	5
The Mount	19	19	14	6	3
The Verne	12	9	13	7	2
Thorn Cross	8	6	12	8	1
Usk/Prescoed	5	12	9	12	0
Wakefield	6	12	11	14	1
Wandsworth	32	26	45	31	7
Warren Hill	5	8	3	1	2
Wayland	6	3	5	4	1
Wealstun	8	12	12	14	1
Wellingborough	8	15	8	16	2
Werrington House	6	7	6	3	0
Wetherby	4	12	8	7	0
Whatton	6	9	6	19	1
Whitemoor	14	18	25	23	6
Winchester	13	14	21	10	6
Wolds	0	0	0	0	0
Woodhill	11	6	22	13	4
Wormwood Scrubs	16	30	43	25	7
Wymott	19	15	12	17	3

Establishment	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Totals	1,264	1,453	1,644	1,599	352

Notes:
1. These figures have been drawn from live administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
2. This information is based on data extracted from a central investigations database (now historic) and data provided by die National Offender Management Service during March 2010.
3. Information has been collated according to the calendar year 1 January through to 31 December.
4. Since 1 April 2004 the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman investigates and produces reports about all deaths in prison custody. As a result these figures are not included.

Probation Officers

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the likely change to the number of *(a)* probation officer and *(b)* probation service officer posts in Wales in financial year 2010-11. [306476]

Maria Eagle: The amalgamation of the four probation providers into a single trust will yield savings of about £1.5 million taken from non-delivery functions. This supports front-line delivery by allowing about 34 full-time equivalent probation officers' posts across Wales to be funded from these savings.

Under the planning assumptions for the trust, during 2010-11 improvements to the trust's workforce planning and case management may result in an overall reduction of up to 28 probation officer posts (POs) and up to two probation service officer posts (PSOs) across Wales. However, additional funding has been granted for offender service provision, which is currently under discussion between the Director of Offender Management in Wales and probation. Any new services agreed with probation would result in the retention of some posts to deliver the services. These discussions are being concluded as quickly as possible.

Reoffenders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will collect and publish re-offending rates for each prison or cluster. [322307]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice is currently undertaking a programme of work to investigate this issue, better to determine whether meaningful data on the reoffending of former prisoners from individual institutions can be produced. It is our intention to publish some findings from this work in November 2010 in a new publication which will include a range of data and analysis on reoffending which is not covered by the existing published statistics.

Young Offender Institutions: Equality

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many young offender institutions have diversity manager posts; and how many such posts are vacant; [321741]

(2) what provision is made for children with a disability in young offender institutions; [321743]

(3) how many young offender institutions have a race equality and diversity communication strategy; and when each was last revised; [321749]

(4) how many young offender institutions have diversity representative posts; and how many such posts are vacant. [321753]

Maria Eagle: Prison Service Orders (PSO) 2800 (Race Equality) and 2855 (Prisoners with Disabilities) require prisons to have a designated member of staff to act as a liaison for race equality and for disability issues.

Locally prisons and young offender institutions (YOIs) may choose to have a diversity manager to oversee equality issues generally. In addition, all have offender representatives supporting the work of local management teams on diversity issues. On 31 December 2009, 16 from 18 YOIs indicated that they had a diversity manager.

PSO 2855 sets out prisons' and YOIs' requirements for meeting the needs of prisoners with disabilities and how the Prison Service must comply with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (amended 2005). The PSO does not provide guidance on particular disabilities as it is the intention that the individual needs of the offender are assessed and reasonable adjustments made to address the issues raised, rather than adopting a one size fits all policy.

PSO 2800 requires prisons and YOIs to have a race equality communication strategy setting out how they will communicate and consult with staff, prisoners and visitors. Information on the management of equality in prisons and YOIs is collected quarterly through a questionnaire designed by the NOMS Race and Equalities Action Group. Every YOI reports having a race equality communication strategy. Data are not collected centrally on revision dates.

Young Offender Institutions: Food

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of providing food in each of the young offender institutions holding juveniles was in the last 12 months. [321746]

Maria Eagle: The average Prison Service daily food expenditure per prisoner[1] in public sector young offender institutions holding juveniles during 2008-09 (latest available data) is shown in the table.

[1] The daily food cost has been calculated using available management information from NOMS finance systems and assumes that all transactions have been allocated and recorded against the correct accounting codes.

Average daily cost of food per prisoner, 2008-09

	£
Brinsford	2.40
Castington	2.51
Cookham Wood[1]	2.84
Downview	2.21
Eastwood Park	2.58
Feltham	3.20
Foston Hall	2.41
Hindley	2.50
Huntercombe	2.60
New Hall	2.46
Stoke Heath	2.47
Warren Hill[2]	2.61

Average daily cost of food per prisoner, 2008-09

	£
Werrington	3.20
Wetherby	2.58

[1] Includes Rochester as their kitchen also provides meals for Cookham Wood and it is not possible to separate food costs for the two sites.

[2] Includes Hollesley Bay as their kitchen also provides meals for Warren Hill and it is not possible to separate food costs for the two sites.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which young offender institutions observe guidelines on providing five pieces of fruit or vegetables a day; [321747]

(2) what steps the Prison Service is taking to implement Department of Health guidance on healthy eating. [321748]

Maria Eagle: Young offender institutions in England and Wales provide a multi-choice, pre-select menu that includes healthy options. Caterers are issued with guidance to provide five portions of fruit and vegetables each day and are expected to meet this requirement.

There are a number of initiatives to encourage healthy eating including working towards food specifications with reduced sugar and salt content, favouring steaming and baking rather than shallow and deep frying and avoiding adding salt and sugar during the cooking process. A balanced approach to nutrition is being pursued in line with the Department of Health's guidelines.

Educating all prisoners, including young offenders, to eat a more healthy diet is key. Increasingly the National Offender Management Service is adopting a multi-disciplinary approach and working with the Department of Health, the Food Standards Agency and others to encourage individual prisoners to eat more healthily.

Young Offender Institutions: Languages

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many children in young offender institutions do not have English as a first language; [321736]

(2) how many children in young offender institutions do not speak English. [321737]

Maria Eagle: Data on the number of young people in Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) who do not speak English, or whose first language is not English, are not collected centrally. In order to meet foreign language needs in YOIs, translations, or explanations through an interpreter, of important information must be available for all young people whose first language is not English. Interpreters can also be provided to supplement translated material.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents of bullying or harassment of children who do not speak English as a first language were recorded in young offender institutions in each year since 2006. [321739]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service does not collect data centrally on either incidents of the bullying or harassment of prisoners in young offender institutions, or of children who do not speak English as a first language.

Each young offender institution has arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of the young people in its care, including strategies for child protection, suicide and self-harm prevention and violence reduction.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in how many young offender institutions there is a routine assessment of the language skills of children when they are admitted. [321750]

Maria Eagle: There is no routine assessment of a young person's language ability. However we are working with the Communication Trust to improve awareness and support for young people in the youth justice system who have communication needs. Supported by DCSF funding, the Communication Trust is taking forward a programme to improve awareness of the importance of young people's communication needs in the secure estate and youth offending teams. The trust is developing training for the youth justice work force and influencing existing work force programmes and National Occupational Standards.

Young Offenders: Hearing Impaired

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many deaf children are in custody in England and Wales. [321742]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not collected centrally, and could only be gathered by contacting each establishment individually, which would involve disproportionate cost.

There is a requirement for all providers of secure accommodation to comply with existing legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. In addition there are further requirements on the different categories of secure establishment to make adequate provision for those with disabilities, including the National Minimum Standards for Children's Homes, contractual agreements with providers and Prison Service Order 2855. These requirements ensure that deaf young people who are in custody receive proper provision.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials: Planning Permission

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many refusals of planning permission for mobile telephone masts by local authorities have been overturned by the Planning Inspectorate in each of the last 10 years. [320850]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Planning Inspectorate's database classifies appeals relating to mobile telephone masts together with appeals relating to other telecommunications developments. The following table therefore shows data on refusals of planning permission by local authorities for development relating to telecommunications including radio/TV mast, aerial, dish or antenna, that were subsequently allowed on appeal, since 2001, where data is available.

	Number of appeals allowed
2001	256
2002	489
2003	391
2004	242
2005	423
2006	485
2007	388
2008	79
2009	91

Energy Performance Certificates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 212W, on energy performance certificates, whether he has made an assessment of the effects on customers of the reported errors in the Energy Performance Certificate Register between September 2008 and June 2009; and whether he has made an estimate of the number of incorrect entries in the register made during that period. [322354]

Mr. Ian Austin: As indicated in my answer of 9 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 212W, any errors identified as a result of Quality Assurance procedures or customer complaints has been rectified. This has been done at no cost to the consumer. No estimate is available of the number of incorrect entries in the EPC Register made between September 2008 and June 2009.

Fire Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason the Parliamentary Under-Secretary, the hon. Member for Dewsbury, did not attend the Local Government Association Fire Conference on 10 March 2010; and if he will make a statement. [322375]

Mr. Malik: I was unable to attend the conference due to ill health.

Fire Services: Catering

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* make, *(b)* specification and *(c)* cost is of the coffee machines in each of the regional fire control rooms. [319113]

Mr. Malik: Regional control centres are equipped to support continuous operations and have high quality facilities including industrial standard kitchens. This allows the buildings to provide for large numbers of staff, for example during large scale emergencies.

(a) The coffee machines in the kitchens of each regional control centre are made by Brasilia.

(b) The specification is a Gradisca 3 Group.

(c) The coffee machines were provided by each developer as part of the construction fit out of the building with the rest of the kitchen equipment. The cost of each coffee machine, associated equipment and training is in the region of five to six thousand pounds.

Fire Services: Greater London

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the regional fire control rooms in London will be operational and live by September 2011. [319114]

Mr. Malik: Under current planning assumptions the regional fire control centre for London is due to become operational during September 2011. Planning assumptions are currently under review.

Green Belt: Greater London

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been built in the Metropolitan green belt in each of the last 10 years. [320897]

Mr. Ian Austin: There is no published information on the proportions of new dwellings built in the green belt below regional level. This information would require additional analysis to assess the robustness of the Land Use Change data at this level of geographical disaggregation.

Green Belt: St. Albans

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were built on land with green belt designation in St. Albans constituency in each of the last 10 years. [320887]

Mr. Ian Austin: There is no published information on the proportions of new dwellings built in the green belt below regional level.

Home Buying Stakeholder Advisory Panel

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what dates the Home Buying Stakeholder Advisory Panel has met; and if he will place in the Library copies of the minutes of each of its meetings. [319282]

Mr. Ian Austin: The stakeholder advisory panel on home buying and selling met on 25 July 2007, 11 October 2007, 12 December 2007, 19 March 2008, 4 June 2008 and 4 November 2008.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 453W, which dealt with the minutes of the meetings of the panel.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proposals he has for the reform of the Housing Revenue Account subsidy scheme; and if he will make a statement. [321464]

John Healey: I intend to make an announcement and publish a summary of responses to the consultation shortly.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to publish further proposals for reform of the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system; and if he will make a statement. [321709]

John Healey: I intend to make a further announcement and publish a summary of responses to the consultation shortly.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to end the transfer out of the national housing revenue account (HRA) of HRA surpluses paid for from tenants' rent with effect from 2010-11. [322250]

John Healey: The HRA Subsidy Determination for 2010-11 was published on 3 February.

We intend to make an announcement shortly which will outline the progress we have made on self-financing, set out more details of our proposals and provide a summary of responses to the consultation.

Housing: Construction

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what percentage of new *(a)* affordable and *(b)* privately built homes had (a) one, (b) two, (c) three and (d) four or more bedrooms in each local authority area in each year since 1997; [320657]

(2) what percentage of new *(a)* affordable and *(b)* privately-built homes were (a) flats and (b) houses in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [320658]

Mr. Ian Austin: Tables will be placed in the Library of the House which shows the percentage of social rented and affordable homes delivered through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme by the number of bedrooms and by houses or flats for each local authority area. These figures are only available from the Homes and Communities Agency's Investment Management System, so will not cover the total number of new build social rent and affordable homes.

Not all affordable housing is provided through new build completions, supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. In 2008-09, a total of 55,770 additional affordable homes, of which 31,090 were for social rent homes, were provided.

Information on new privately built homes by bedroom size or dwelling type for each local authority area is not available.

Housing: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local planning authorities in England have at least one accredited assessor for Building for Life; whether it is his Department's policy to require all local authorities to have at least one accredited assessor; and if he will make a statement. [321552]

Mr. Ian Austin: 160 local planning authorities in England have at least one accredited Building for Life assessor as a result of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment's (CABE) Building for Life accredited assessor training programme. CLG's policies do not require local authorities to become accredited assessors. However, Planning Policy Statement 3 gives clear direction to local planning authorities to deliver well-designed housing and monitor and report on progress. Building for Life is a useful approach that enables local authorities to do that.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many development plans submitted as part of the Kickstart Round 1 process were deemed *(a)* very good, *(b)* good, *(c)* average and *(d)* poor when first assessed against the Building for Life standard. [321553]

Mr. Ian Austin: Details of the breakdown of Building for Life scores under Kickstart round 1 can be found on the Homes and Communities Agency website:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/public/documents/Kickstart_Round%20_1_Review.pdf

The HCA and CABE will produce detailed reports on all aspects of the delivery of Kickstart rounds 1 and 2 following the conclusion of the round 2 assessment process. These reports will include information on the design assessments undertaken.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many assessments were added to the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment's Assessment Register in each of the last three years. [321555]

Mr. Ian Austin: The register of formal Building for Life assessments was launched on 30 September 2009. No assessments were registered with CABE in 2007 or 2008. 90 assessments were registered in 2009. Further assessments have been conducted by others but are not formally recognised or recorded.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Building for Life assessments carried out for Kickstart developments have been reassessed following a request from *(a)* the Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment. [321556]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) commissioned the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment to carry out Building for Life assessments on Kickstart Round 1 schemes. For the lower scoring schemes, HCA supplemented these assessments with further information to enable the suitability of bids to be considered in their wider community and local authority context.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what annual fees are charged by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment for continued accreditation for Building for Life assessors. [321557]

Mr. Ian Austin: There is currently no annual fee charged by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment for continued accreditation of Building for Life assessors.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what payments were made by the Homes and Communities Agency to the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment in each of the last three years; [321560]

(2) how much the Homes and Communities Agency paid to the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment for its assessment of the Kickstart schemes against its Building for Life criteria. [322352]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency was created on 1 December 2008. The following payments have been made to the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment:

December 2008 to March 2009: £125,304

April 2009 to date: £458,278 of which £244,332 is for CABE's assessment of Kickstart schemes against its Building for Life criteria, to date.

All figures exclude VAT.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council and housing association homes in Birmingham did not meet the decent homes standard in each year since 1997; and how much funding his Department provided to upgrade council and housing association homes in Birmingham in each of those years. [321566]

Mr. Ian Austin: The information requested is provided in the following table. This is drawn from the Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA)—Annual Monitoring data from Local Authorities, published by CLG. The RSL data are from the Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR), published by the Tenant Services Authority.

The figures for funding provided by the Department are set out in the second table. The Major Repairs Allowance and the Local Authority Supported Capital Expenditure are not used exclusively for Decent Homes expenditure. We do not provide funding to RSLs.

Social housing stock—Birmingham

	Local authority		*RSL*		*Total social sector*	
	All stock	*Non-decents*	*All stock*	*Non-decents*	*All stock*	*Non-decents*
2001	85,500	53,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002	80,900	56,900	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003	76,700	51,700	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004	72,900	49,300	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	70,400	43,700	38,600	4,900	109,100	48,600
2006	68,200	34,900	38,900	4,600	107,100	39,500
2007	66,800	23,000	39,200	4,000	106,000	27,000
2008	65,700	14,400	39,400	2,600	105,100	17,000
2009	64,800	7,100	39,700	1,400	104,400	8,500

Note:
Figures rounded to nearest hundred

£

	LASCE[1]	*MRA*[2]
1997-98	61,838,161	n/a
1998-99	61,815,478	n/a
1999-2000	60,087,942	n/a
2000-01	59,979,798	n/a
2001-02	58,015,822	42,624,554
2002-03	55,175,337	41.616,934
2003-04	55,300,203	39,844,656
2004-05	45,050,978	39,682,548
2005-06	47,952,457	39,422,670
2006-07	46,914,415	38,807,225
2007-08	44,992,723	40,273,716
2008-09	41,183,689	41,009,973
2009-10	37,873,808	40,722,499

[1] LASCE—local authority supported capital expenditure

[2] MRA—major repairs allowance

Multiple Occupation

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what effect the conversion of a house in multiple occupation to a single dwelling has on the calculation of the number of housing units under the criteria used to assess housing levels *(a)* nationally and *(b)* under the housing target in the London Plan. [321349]

Mr. Ian Austin: The conversion of a house in multiple occupation to a single dwelling would have no effect on the estimate of dwelling numbers nationally. This is because a house in multiple occupation is counted as one dwelling.

The housing numbers in the Mayor's London Plan include "non self-contained" accommodation. In London, therefore, conversion of a house in multiple occupation would result in a reduction in "non self-contained" accommodation.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2010, *Official Report,* columns 1153-54W, on non-domestic rates: ports, for what reason the Valuation Office Agency decided *(a)* in 2002 that Grimsby Fish Dock Enterprise should not be separately rated and *(b)* in 2009 that it should be separately rated. [322225]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Valuation Office Agency determined that Grimsby Fish Dock Enterprises should not form a separate assessment in 2002 on the back of information they were provided at the time. However the facts now show the fish market should be separately assessed for business rates.

Where a change has been made to alter the rating lists this has been as a consequence of new information that alters the overall balance in terms of the decision on paramount occupation. The decision as to who is in paramount control, and therefore who should be rated, rests on the facts of each case.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance was provided to the Valuation Office Agency on steps to ensure that the assessment and rating of port businesses consequent on the end of prescription rating were separate processes. [322290]

Barbara Follett: The assessment of rateable value and the maintenance of rating lists is the responsibility of the Valuation Office Agency and not this Department. We do not provide guidance to the Valuation Office Agency on professional valuation issues.

Sleeping Rough: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of rough sleepers in York in the *(a)* summer and *(b)* winter of (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [322090]

Mr. Ian Austin: Since 1998 an annual figure for rough sleeping has been published. There were 12 rough sleepers found on a street count in York in 1998 and good progress has been made with only two found in 2009.

The total number of rough sleepers has fallen to 464 in 2009 based on local authority street counts compared to the 1998 baseline of 1,850.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many open access beds for rough sleepers there are in York and how many such beds were provided in 1997. [322091]

Mr. Ian Austin: This Department does not collect information on the number of open access beds for rough sleepers. Under our £90 million Hostels Capital Improvement Programme we have invested over £2 million on the new Arclight hostel for rough sleepers in York to replace the poor quality night shelter.

Tackling Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 210W, on antisocial behaviour, how many copies of the leaflet on tackling antisocial behaviour were delivered to each local authority listed. [322303]

Barbara Follett: A report has been deposited in the Library of the House which sets out the number of copies of the Tackling Antisocial Behaviour leaflet that were delivered to each local authority.

Tenancy Deposit Schemes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2001, *Official Report*, column 216W, on tenancy deposit schemes; if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract between his Department and each tenancy deposit scheme provider. [322327]

Mr. Ian Austin: The contracts between Communities and Local Government and the tenancy deposit protection scheme providers contain, commercially confidential information. I am therefore unable to place copies in the Library.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 216W, on tenancy deposit schemes, what mechanisms are in place to ensure the financial viability of tenancy deposit schemes. [322355]

Mr. Ian Austin: The contracts under which the tenancy deposit schemes operate are designed to ensure that they continue to be financially viable. Those contracts are commercially sensitive. But I can confirm that the mechanisms which they contain in order to safeguard financial viability include restrictions on investments and agreed method statements based on the schemes' initial business planning assumptions. All these measures are kept under close review.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 216W, on tenancy deposit schemes, whether he has made an assessment of the adequacy of the self-financing aspect of the business models of the private companies under contract to his Department. [322356]

Mr. Ian Austin: We closely monitor the three tenancy deposit scheme providers with contracts with Communities and Local Government and hold regular contract governance meetings with them. We are satisfied that their business models are adequate to facilitate the ongoing financing of their schemes.

SCOTLAND

Defence

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland who authorised the issue of his Department's background paper, entitled Scotland and Defence published on 8 March 2010; when the paper was commissioned; who was consulted as part of the preparation of the paper; what estimate he has made of the cost of *(a)* producing and *(b)* printing the paper; and what steps his Department took to publicise the paper upon publication. [321967]

Ann McKechin: The paper was produced by the Scotland Office to provide a factual analysis of the position to help inform debate. It was prepared over the last few months and a number of Ministry of Defence officials were consulted during its drafting to check facts and figures. The paper was agreed to, and the final draft approved by, Defence Ministers.

As the paper was part of the ongoing work of the Scotland Office, there were no additional, costs involved in its production or printing. It was subsequently made available on the Scotland Office website.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether special advisers in his Department were involved in the drafting of the background paper, entitled Scotland and Defence. [321968]

Ann McKechin: Special advisers in the Scotland Office, work with the Permanent Civil Service, and provide advice and assistance to Ministers across the range of their activities in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which defence establishments in Scotland he has visited since *(a)* taking office in October 2008 and *(b)* commissioning the background paper, entitled Scotland and Defence. [321969]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have visited a wide range of defence-related establishments throughout Scotland since taking office, including RAF Kinloss, Rosyth dockyard, the shipbuilding yards at Govan and the missile ranges at Uist, where I announced the ranges would remain open for business.

I also visited the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards at their base in Fallingbostel in Germany as well as welcoming the Black Watch back to Edinburgh following the end of their most recent tour in Afghanistan. I have also been actively involved in visits to defence-related organisations such Erskine and the Army Benevolent Fund and attended Armed Forces Day in Glasgow last year.

In addition, have visited a number of defence manufacturers including:

Babcock International Group plc

BVT

QinetiQ

SELEX Galileo

Thales Optronics UK

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department's paper entitled Scotland and Defence has been discussed at Cabinet. [321970]

Ann McKechin: Information relating to internal meetings, discussion and advice and the proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet Committees is generally not disclosed, as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many designs for its *(a)* internal website and *(b)* intranet his Department has commissioned since 2005; and what the cost was of each such design. [321980]

Ann McKechin: There have been no design changes to the Scotland Office intranet since 2005.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [322082]

Ann McKechin: In the last 12 months one item of property has been recorded as lost. The Scotland Office incurred no cost as it was not replaced. No property has been reported stolen in the last 12 months.

TREASURY

Banks: Pay

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to place a cap on bankers' bonuses. [321385]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 9 March 2010]:* The Government are clear that remuneration policies must be based on long-term sustainable performance in the interests of all shareholders, taking proper account of risk. Therefore, there must be an end to the short-term bonus culture in the banking sector.

However, the Government also recognise that performance related pay is an important part of rewarding valuable contributions as long as it rewards long-term success and takes an appropriate account of risk. The idea of a bonus cap was rejected by the G20 and the Government do not plan to bring forward proposals to place a cap on banking bonuses.

Child Trust Fund: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children in the City of York local authority area have received child trust fund payments *(a)* since the scheme's inception and *(b)* in the last 12 months. [322108]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Each child trust fund account that is opened receives a payment of £250 from the Government, with an additional payment of £250 to children in lower-income families. Statistics showing the level of child trust fund accounts opened in each local authority area is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/stats.htm

This data shows that 10,760 child trust fund accounts had been opened in the York Unitary Authority for children born by 5 April 2008.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 758W, on council tax: Bromley, if he will place in the Library a table showing the most recent figures for the number of properties with each individual *(a)* dwelling house code and *(b)* value significant code, including codes for (i) type, (ii) number of rooms, (iii) number of bedrooms, (iv) number of bathrooms, (v) number of floors, (vi) floor level, (vii) parking, (viii) garaging, (ix) conservatory type, (x) age, (xi) outbuilding and (xii) modernisation code, for all local authority areas in England; and what figures the Valuation Office Agency holds for such properties in Wales. [319184]

Ian Pearson: The tables of dwelling house codes and value significant codes for each billing authority have not been updated since publication in October 2009 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. A copy of the tables was subsequently placed in the Library. The VOA intends to update these tables on an annual basis and will publish revised tables later in 2010 so that publication can conform to the National Statistics code of practice.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many designs for its *(a)* internal website and *(b)* intranet his Department has commissioned since 2005; and what the cost was of each such design. [321978]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In 2008 the HM Treasury intranet underwent a redevelopment. The design costs associated with this were £38,634.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff of each grade are employed by his Department to assist special advisers. [321125]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The number of full-time equivalent staff employed by HM Treasury to assist the special advisers and Council of Economic Advisers is 4.5, comprising of 2 full-time range Ds, 1 part-time range C and 2 full-time range Bs.

EU Budget

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the percentage change in the UK's net contribution to the EU budget between 2008-09 and 2010-11. [322305]

Ian Pearson: The latest estimate of UK net contributions to the EU Budget are £4.2 billion in 2007-08, £3.0 billion in 2008-09, £4.8 billion in 2009-10 and £6.0 billion in 2010-11, as given in footnote 3 of Table B15 of the December 2009 pre-Budget report.

Greater Manchester

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Manchester, Gorton constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department policies since 1997. [322137]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 Census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk./

The Government have put in place a broad programme of reform since 1997. Over the decade to 2007, the economic performance of all parts of the UK has improved considerably.

The global recession has had a negative impact on economic activity in all areas of the UK. However, the economy was starting from a position of strength and is actively supported by policies implemented by the Government, including the fiscal stimulus and a significant package of support for those out of work.

In Gorton people are benefiting from this investment. Since the middle of 2009, more than 730 people moved off of the claimant count each month on average. At the beginning of 2010, claimant count unemployment is still nearly 18 per cent. lower and long-term youth unemployment 85 per cent. lower than in May 1997.

Investment Income Surcharge

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 629W, on investment income surcharge, what the equivalent figure is for 2008-09. [322315]

Mr. Timms: The exemption limit above which the investment income surcharge of 15 per cent. applied was £7,100 for 1983-84, the last year before the investment income surcharge was abolished. The level of the exemption limit which would have applied for 2008-09 is £19,800 under annual statutory indexation based on changes in the retail price index with rounding up each year to the nearest multiple of £100.

Applying a rate of surcharge of 15 per cent. to individual's investment income above an exemption limit of £19,800 would yield around £3.7 billion in respect of the 2008-09 tax year, although most of this income would not be received until the following year.

This estimate is based on the Survey of Personal Incomes 2006-07 projected forward in line with the 2009 pre-Budget report assumptions. The figure excludes any estimate of behavioural response which could be considerable given the extent of the change.

Israel: EU External Trade

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons HM Revenue and Customs *(a)* refused preference for and *(b)* investigated consignments of imports from Israel under the EU-Israel Trade Agreement in respect of (i) two consignments with commodity code 33079000, refused in August 2009, (ii) one consignment with commodity code 34013000, refused in November 2009 and (iii) one consignment with commodity code 34013000, under investigation. [322387]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs refused preference for the three consignments in question as documentary checks confirmed that the place of production was in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. For the remaining consignment with commodity code 34013000, HMRC are awaiting confirmation of the place of production.

Public and Commercial Services Union

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received from the Public and Commercial Services Union on the job security of its members who work for his Department and its agencies. [322251]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Revenue and Customs

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what procedures are in place to communicate agreed redundancy and relocation arrangements to staff at HM Revenue and Customs offices which are scheduled to close. [317701]

Mr. Timms: On 13 January 2010 HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) confirmed that 130 of its offices, previously announced for closure during the Department's Workforce Change Regional Review Programme, would close during 2010-11.

The Department has put in place a range of measures to communicate with and provide support to staff who are affected by the announcement. HMRC has, and will continue to consult with trade unions on communication issues.

Staff who are unable to relocate have been declared surplus and are entitled to volunteer for compulsory early severance or compulsory early retirement, to leave HMRC by 31 March 2010.

Meetings were held in each office affected on 13 January to explain the consequences of the announcement. These meetings were supported by information, including questions and answers, published on HMRC's intranet. A staff dial-in with senior managers was also held on 13 January, and a managers' help line and staff mail-box set up to ensure staff received the information they need about relocation and redundancy arrangements.

Letters were issued to all affected staff on 15 January confirming their surplus status and providing individuals with an estimated severance quotation. Staff seminars have been held to give people a better understanding of their situation, the options open to them and to provide a further opportunity to ask questions before they make a decision by 26 January.

Managers will hold individual discussions with all staff who choose not to accept the offer to leave to help them find redeployment opportunities within HMRC or the wider civil service.

HMRC will continue to provide regular updates for staff on its intranet site and through five regional support teams, with representatives from business units across HMRC, which have been set up both to help people make choices and facilitate closure of the offices.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to increase the state earnings-related pension scheme (SERPS) by 2.5 per cent. in line with the basic state pension; and what recent guidance his Department has issued to those considering a SERPS pension. [321713]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The conventions on uprating state pensions are concerned with maintaining their price value. Had we applied those rules this year, when inflation as measured by the September retail prices index was minus 1.4 per cent. pensioners would not have received a rise in their state pension.

We decided that the fairest and most effective way of getting help to the 11 million pensioners in the UK was to apply an above earnings increase of 2.5 per cent. to the basic state pension. Because of the statutory link between the additional state pension and public service pensions, any uprating of the additional state pension would impose a burden on taxpayers and also put pensioners with public service pensions at an unfair advantage over those with private sector pensions.

Leaving additional state pension at current rates this year has no bearing on an individual's decision on whether to contract-out of the state second pension because uprating applies only to additional state pension after a person is in receipt of their pension and does not affect the value of the additional state pension being accrued by people below state pension age. Information for individuals considering whether to contract out of the additional state pension into an occupational pension scheme or personal pension can be found in our leaflet entitled 'Contracted-out pensions' (PM7).

Tax Allowances: Forestry

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to improve the tax incentives to charities engaged in tree planting and reforestation with traditional species of tree. [321543]

Ian Pearson: The Government provide a generous range of tax reliefs for charities and donors, worth over £3 billion a year, which provides support to charities whatever their cause. The Chancellor keeps taxes and tax reliefs under ongoing review.

Charities are also eligible to apply for grants from the Forestry Commission under the Rural Development Programme for England that contribute to the costs of planting native woodlands.

The Government's 2009 Low Carbon Transition Plan set out its intention to support a new drive to encourage private funding for woodland creation and work is under way to explore the best way of meeting this commitment.

Taxation: Domicile

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what requirements passport holders from *(a)* Belize and *(b)* each other foreign country must satisfy to be granted non-domicile status in the UK for tax purposes; [321658]

(2) under what circumstances a person who was born in the UK whose parents were UK citizens and who is a long-term resident of the UK can qualify to be classified as *(a)* non-domiciled in the UK for tax purposes and *(b)* domiciled in Belize for UK tax purposes; [321659]

(3) how many people holding Belize passports are classified as non-domiciled in the UK for tax purposes; and on what date each was granted such status. [321660]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not collect information on the passports held by taxpayers, or keep separate information on domicile in relation to Belize passport holders.

Certain tax consequences follow from not being domiciled in the UK, but whether or not someone is domiciled in the UK is a matter of general law.

Under general law, the domicile status of an individual depends closely on the facts and circumstances relating to that individual. HMRC's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/cnr/domicile-tier2.pdf

provides guidance on the principles that need to be applied to the facts in determining domicile in any particular case.

Valuation Office Agency: Termination of Employment

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many senior staff have *(a)* resigned and *(b)* taken early retirement from the Valuation Office Agency for each reason since 2004. [322289]

Ian Pearson: Three senior staff have resigned from the Valuation Office Agency since 1 April 2004. No senior staff have taken early retirement since 1 April 2004.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Boilers: Government Assistance

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the total cost to his Department of administering the boiler scrappage scheme. [321074]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 9 March 2010]:* The Government estimate that the total cost of administering the boiler scrappage scheme over its lifetime will be around £1.8 million which equates to 3.6 per cent. of scheme costs.

Climate Change: Costs

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the net cost to the Exchequer of the Government's Climate Change Agreements in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [320517]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of the net cost to the Exchequer of the Government's Climate Change Agreements are available in Table 7 of the pre-Budget report Tax Ready Reckoner.

Combined Heat and Power

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much of the UK's electricity supply was generated from good quality combined heat and power sources in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what his most recent estimate is of the quantity which will be generated from such sources in 2010. [321364]

Mr. Kidney: In 2008, 27,911 GWh of electricity was generated from good quality CHP. This equates to 7 per cent. of the UK's electricity supply. Figures for 2009 will become available on the 29 July 2010.

Recent estimates of CHP development estimate an installed capacity of 7.1MW in 2010. Using the 2008 load factors, this would provide an estimated 36,260 GWh of electricity.

Electricity: Disconnections

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many domestic electricity customers were disconnected as a result of non-payment of bills in each year since 1997. [320312]

Mr. Kidney: Ofgem publish data on the number of disconnections due to debt. Further information can be found in the following publication:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Monitoring/SoObMonitor/Documents1/2008%20Supplier%20Social%20OBligations%20Annual%20Report.pdf

The following table includes the total number of disconnections due to debt for electricity in each year from 1997 to 2008. The majority of suppliers reduced their numbers of electricity disconnections in 2008. A large proportion of the increase in the total was due to the impact of a change in regulation which meant that prepayment meters could no longer be installed in some types of properties. Ofgem is currently monitoring the situation.

Disconnections due to debt

Electricity	*Number*
1997	460
1998	400
1999	373
2000	300
2001	375
2002	995
2003	1,361
2004	727
2005	604
2006	1,258
2007	2,657
2008	2,891

Existing supply licence obligations and an industry agreed code of practice provide a high level of protection for vulnerable consumers in debt. Suppliers must not disconnect a domestic premises during winter (October through to March) if they know, or have reason to believe, that the customer is of pensionable age and lives alone, or only lives with other pensioners or children under the age of 18.

Energy: EC Action

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent progress has been made on implementation of the EU's third energy package; and if he will make a statement. [320357]

Mr. Kidney: The Government are carrying out an analysis of the Third Package Directives and Regulations to assess what changes will need to be made to our domestic energy market framework to meet the specified legal requirements. The required changes are to be made by 3 March 2011 and the Government will consult stakeholders on implementation of the package during the course of this year.

Energy: Prices

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what provision has been made under mandated social price support in respect of electricity and gas to increase the level of support provided to households not connected to the mains gas network. [321894]

Mr. Kidney: Subject to its safe passage, the current Energy Bill will allow the Secretary of State to establish mandated social price support for more of the most vulnerable consumers.

I have announced my intention, subject to consultation, to require energy suppliers to deliver the new help available under mandated social price support schemes through eligible consumers' electricity accounts.

I expect the consultation to take place this summer and to be sufficiently wide-ranging to cover the point the right hon. Member raises.

A rebate on electricity bills is more inclusive, enabling eligible households off the gas grid to benefit alongside eligible households on the gas grid.

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the effect of social tariffs in reducing the level of fuel bills in households which rely on heating fuels such as heating oil and liquefied petroleum gas. [321895]

Mr. Kidney: Ofgem, who monitor the energy suppliers' social programmes, report on the number of gas and electricity customer accounts which benefit from social tariffs and the average savings per tariff. Some of these customers will be off the gas network, but the data available do not give a breakdown of these.

By March 2009 over 1 million customer accounts were benefiting from a social tariff under the current three-year voluntary agreement between Government and the energy suppliers.

We have proposed legislation for a Social Price Support Scheme in the Energy Bill, which is currently before Parliament. As part of this, we are minded to require energy suppliers to provide help through eligible consumers' electricity accounts. This would enable eligible households off the gas grid to benefit alongside those eligible households on the gas grid.

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he has given to structuring mandated social price support to support households reliant on heating fuels; and if he will make a statement. [321896]

Mr. Kidney: Careful consideration is being given by the Department on how best to target mandated social price support at vulnerable and fuel poor consumers.

As a result of this work I have already announced my intention, subject to consultation in summer 2010, to require energy suppliers to deliver the new help available under mandated social price support schemes through eligible consumers' electricity accounts. This is because I believe a rebate on electricity bills is more inclusive, enabling eligible households off the gas grid to benefit alongside eligible households on the gas grid.

Fuel Oil

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the level of competition in local heating fuel supply markets in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [321897]

Mr. Kidney: There are around 200 different heating oil distributors and around 40 Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) suppliers in the UK, some with a national, regional or local presence, with competition between the companies involved. In order to provide a choice for consumers the relevant trade associations provide a search facility to find local suppliers:

http://fps.findmydistributor.co.uk/

and

http://www.uklpg.org/supplier-search/

The Government support the retention of a competitive market for heating oil, which is in the best interests of all customers. Both general consumer protection legislation, such as the Supply of Goods and Services Act and Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations, and competition law apply to this sector. Responsibility for the enforcement of competition law lies with the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and the Competition Commission. Following an investigation by the Competition Commission regulatory changes to make it easier to switch supplier for domestic bulk LPG have recently come into force, and should improve competition in this market.

Office of Gas and Electricity Markets: Finance

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget is of the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [320515]

Mr. Kidney: Ofgem inform us that their budget for 2009-10 and projected budget for 2010-11 and 2011-12 is:

£ million

	2009-10	*2010-11 (projected costs)*	*2011-12 (projected costs)*
Ofgem	38.7	37.5	37.2
Ofgem E-Serve	6.9	41.2	39.9
Total	45.6	78.7	77.1

The projected increase in E-Serve's budget between 2009-10 and 2010-11 is mainly due to the administration of new Government programmes such as the rollout of smart meters, feed in tariffs and the Renewable Heat Incentive.

Public Bodies: Finance

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what budget has been set for the *(a)* Coal Authority, *(b)* Committee on Radioactive Waste Management, *(c)* Nuclear Decommissioning

Authority, *(d)* UK Energy Research Partnership and *(e)* Civil Nuclear Police Authority in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [320514]

Mr. Kidney: The following budgets have been set for these organisations for 2009-10:

Organisation	*Total budget for 2009-10 (£)*
Coal Authority	40,000,000
Committee on Radioactive Waste Management	525,000
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority	2,936,000
UK Energy Research Partnership	[1]—
Civil Nuclear Police Authority	4,900,000

[1] The ERP is a partnership between government, industry and research organisations. DECC's contribution to ERP in 2009-10 is £38,000.

Budgets for 2010-11 and 2011-12 are not yet finalised.

Totnes Town Transition Group

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 74-5W, on the Totnes Town Transition Group, by what mechanisms the monitoring and evaluation plan will capture evidence of project impacts and promote community dialogue and shared learning; what timetable has been set for completion of that plan; what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of that plan; and what programmes will be funded from the grant of £625,000. [322041]

Joan Ruddock: The Low Carbon Community Challenge research programme will use the following mechanisms as part of the monitoring and evaluation plan in order to capture evidence of project impacts and promote community dialogue and shared learning:

Capturing baseline hard data and historic trends on domestic and non-domestic energy use in buildings in each of the 22 communities.

Socio-economic and environmental behaviour data captured using a household survey across the successful communities—one before the challenge begins and one at the end—involving a sample of residents in each community.

Public dialogue: A series of facilitated events in each of the 22 communities to understand the emerging lessons from the Challenge—for the project, the partners as well as for policy making.

Evaluation of the effectiveness of the LCCC as a programme.

The plan started in February 2010 and will be completed in March 2012. The estimated cost to the public purse of the evaluation plan over the two years is between £900,000 and £1,300,000.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

European Union

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what issues he has identified as strategic priorities for the European Union; and if he will make a statement. [322295]

Chris Bryant: The Government see the primary strategic priorities for the EU as to deliver an open and competitive European economy, to promote stability and growth in its neighbourhood, and to work for sustainability, openness and security in the wider world.

The Government are at the forefront of promoting and driving action across this agenda. We have led the debate on the future shape of an ambitious, innovative, low carbon jobs and growth orientated economic agenda, as set out in the Prime Minister's Compact for Jobs and Growth. We continue to encourage the EU to deliver further enlargement, and to promote the reforms necessary within the aspirant countries, including particularly increased capacity and effectiveness of government institutions, transparent and accountable judicial institutions, and restructured and reformed economies. And we continue to drive efforts to ensure the EU promotes international security and stability, including through effective policy toward major external issues, a coordinated approach towards common security and defence policy operations, and effective institutional structure, including for the European External Action Service, that help to deliver the strategic priorities as a whole.

Falkland Islands

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations the US administration has made to his Department on the subject of the UK's sovereignty in respect of the Falkland Islands; and if he will make a statement. [322388]

Chris Bryant: None.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will issue a demarche to the US administration about the US Secretary of State's call for talks on sovereignty in respect of the Falkland Islands during her recent visit to Buenos Aires; and if he will make a statement. [322389]

Chris Bryant: We are in regular touch with the US on this issue. The US continues to recognise the UK's administration of the Falkland Islands and their wider position remains unchanged. We have consistently made clear that there is no need for any discussions or negotiations on the issue of the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands and surrounding maritime areas, about which we have no doubts. The principle of self-determination, enshrined in the UN charter, underlies our position.

Intelligence Services

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the guidelines issued by his Department to officers of those intelligence services which fall within his responsibilities on interviewing prisoners abroad have been *(a)* seen and *(b)* agreed by him; and if he will make a statement. [321504]

David Miliband *[holding answer 11 March 2010]:* The draft consolidated guidance is being considered by the relevant Ministers, and as my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made clear, will be published soon.

Nuclear Disarmament: International Cooperation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what papers the Government has prepared for the nuclear non-proliferation summit in Washington DC on 12 and 13 April 2010; which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials plan to attend the summit; and whether any representatives of non-governmental organisations will be included in the UK delegation. [319205]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply.

Government officials are currently involved in negotiating the communiqué and work plan texts that are expected to be issued at the US-hosted Nuclear Security summit in April. The UK delegation has not yet been finalised.

Terrorism: Northern Ireland

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made an estimate of the amount of money which has been provided by individuals and organisations in the US to dissident Republican terrorist organisations in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; what steps have been taken with the US administration to prevent any such payments being made; and if he will make a statement. [321306]

Paul Goggins: I have been asked to reply.

There is no evidence that the US represents a significant source of funding or other support for dissident Republicans. In terms of prevention, both RIRA and CIRA have been designated 'Foreign Terrorist Organisations' by the US Government. This makes it unlawful for a person in the US or subject to the jurisdiction of the US to knowingly provide material support or resources to a designated foreign terrorist organisation. It also requires any US financial institution that becomes aware that it has possession of or control over funds in which a designated foreign terrorist organisation or its agent has an interest, to retain possession of or control over the funds and report the funds to the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the US Department of Treasury.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in which schools in each local authority area a school rebuilding project is under way under the Building Schools for the Future programme which has not reached financial close. [321859]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities *(a)* have reached financial close for their Building Schools for the Future (BSF) projects, *(b)* are part of the BSF programme but have not reached financial close and *(c)* are not part of the programme. [321860]

Mr. Coaker: Fifty projects in 43 local authorities have reached financial close in the Building Schools for the Future programme. These are listed in table A as follows. 58 local authorities in BSF have not reached financial close. These are detailed in list B. The 51 local authorities still waiting to join the programme are in list C.

Table A: 43 local authorities which have reached financial close

Local authority	*Date reached financial close*
Hull	March 2010
Stoke-on-Trent	February 2010
Rochdale	January 2010
Blackburn with Darwen (part of Blackburn with Darwen and Bolton)	January 2010
Bolton (part of Blackburn with Darwen and Bolton)	January 2010
Salford (part of Salford and Wigan(	December 2009
Wigan (part of Salford and Wigan)	December 2009
Birmingham	August 2009
Durham	August 2009
Sandwell	July 2009
Derbyshire	July 2009
North Lincolnshire	July 2009
Barnsley	July 2009
Luton	May 2009
Southwark	May 2009
Haringey	March 2009
Tameside	February 2009
Tower Hamlets	January 2009
Newham	January 2009
Middlesbrough	December 2008
Hackney	November 2008
Liverpool	November 2008
Kent	October 2008
Islington	July 2008
Nottingham	June 2008
Westminster	April 2008
Sunderland	March 2008
Leicester	December 2007
South Tyneside (part of South Tyneside and Gateshead—StaG)	December 2007
Gateshead (part of South Tyneside and Gateshead—StaG)	December 2007
Knowsley	December 2007
Lewisham	December 2007
Waltham Forest	August 2007
Sheffield	July 2007
Newcastle	July 2007
Solihull	May 2007
Leeds	April 2007
Lambeth	January 2007
Bradford	December 2006
Lancashire	December 2006
Greenwich	November 2006
Manchester	August 2006
Bristol	June 2006

List B: Local authorities in BSF that have not reached financial close

Barking

Barnet

Bedford

Blackpool

Bournemouth

Brent

Buckinghamshire
Cambridgeshire
Camden
Cornwall
Coventry
Croydon
Darlington
Derby City
Devon
Doncaster
Ealing
Enfield
Essex
Halton
Hammersmith and Fulham
Hampshire
Hartlepool
Havering
Hertfordshire
Hillingdon
Hounslow
Kensington and Chelsea
Kingston
Kirklees
Lincolnshire
NE Lincolnshire
Norfolk
North Tyneside
Nottinghamshire
Oldham
Oxfordshire
Peterborough
Plymouth
Poole
Portsmouth
Redcar and Cleveland
Rotherham
Sefton
Somerset
Southampton
St. Helens
Staffordshire
Stockton-on-Tees
Suffolk
Sutton
Telford and Wrekin
Wakefield
Walsall
Wandsworth
Warrington
Wolverhampton
Worcestershire

List C: Local authorities not in Building Schools for the Future

Bath and North East Somerset
Bedfordshire (Central)
Bexley
Bracknell Forest
Brighton and Hove
Bromley
Bury
Calderdale
Cheshire East
Cheshire West and Chester
City of London
Cumbria
Dorset
Dudley
East Riding of Yorkshire
East Sussex
Gloucestershire
Harrow
Herefordshire
Isle of Wight
Isles of Scilly
Leicestershire
Medway
Merton
Milton Keynes
North Somerset
North Yorkshire
Northamptonshire
Northumberland
Reading
Redbridge
Richmond upon Thames
Rutland
Shropshire
South Gloucestershire
Southend-on-Sea
Slough
Stockport
Surrey
Swindon
Thurrock
Torbay
Trafford
Warwickshire
West Berkshire
West Sussex
Wiltshire
Windsor and Maidenhead
Wirral
Wokingham
York

Departmental Consultants

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in 2009. [316836]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not been possible to identify the Department's spend on advertising in 2009 without incurring disproportionate cost. However, the Department's spend on advertising in the 2008-09 financial year was £13,891,106.

Advertising expenditure by non-departmental public bodies and executive agencies in 2009 cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England have received education maintenance allowance in each year since its inception; [321112]

(2) how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England received education maintenance allowance in 2009; [313484]

(3) how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* nationwide have received education maintenance allowance in each year since 2008-09. [313485]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is held by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). I have asked the LSC's chief executive, Geoff Russell, to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 5 March 2010:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Questions 321112, 313484 and 313485.

Information on the number of young people who have received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at Local Authority Level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

The following table shows EMA take-up during each academic year since inception for England, the North East, South Tyneside Local Authority area and Gateshead Local Authority area.

Area type	*Area*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10 to end-January 2010*
National	England	297,259	429,627	527,319	546,472	540,908	599,791
Region	North East	19,409	25,755	32,528	33,803	34,934	36,425
LA	South Tyneside	1,636	1,711	2,148	2,326	2,251	2,422
LA	Gateshead	1,842	2,000	2,268	2,445	2,532	2,673

In comparing across years, it is important to understand that national roll-out was phased over several years. In the first year EMA was available to all 16 year olds across England and to 17 and 18 year olds in former pilot areas. In 2005/06 EMA was available to all 16 and 17 year olds nationally. From 2006/07 EMA was available to all 16, 17 and 18 year olds nationally.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08 is available on the LSC website, at the following address:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/sta[illegible]learner/EMA_take_up.htm

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in *(a)* comprehensive and *(b)* independent schools were entered for GCSE examinations in (i) physics, (ii) biology, (iii) chemistry, (iv) history, (v) geography, (vi) mathematics, (vii) English and (viii) English literature in the most recent year for which figures are available. [314907]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 2 February 2010]:* The information required is given in the following table:

Number of pupils entered for GCSEs in selected subjects in comprehensive and independent schools in 2009

	Comprehensive school		*Independent school*	
Selected subject	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Physics	53,532	10.3	15,028	31.0
Biological Sciences	56,884	11.0	16,435	33.9
Chemistry	53,654	10.3	15,671	32.4
History	155,610	30.0	23,248	48.0
Geography	132,109	25.4	21,636	44.7
Mathematics	510,220	98.3	27,664	57.1
English	503,383	97.0	41,347	85.4
English Literature	405,303	78.1	36,839	76.1

Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables.

The data relate to pupils at the end of key stage 4.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils achieved at least five GCSE grades at A* to C in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [321113]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is given in the following table:

	Jarrow		*South Tyneside*		*North-east*		*England*	
	Number of pupils[1, 2]	*Percentage of pupils gaining 5+ A*-C*[3]	*Number of pupils*[1, 2]	*Percentage of pupils gaining 5+ A*-C*[3]	*Number of pupils*[1, 2]	*Percentage of pupils gaining 5+ A*-C*[3]	*Number of pupils*[1, 2]	*Percentage of pupils gaining 5+ A*-C*[3]
1997	962	38.8	1,873	35.7	31,234	36.8	537,661	42.5
1998	937	38.1	1,820	36.9	30,433	37.1	527,538	43.8
1999	951	41.5	1,826	39.9	30,629	39.4	533,730	45.7
2000	948	39.9	1,839	39.3	30,473	41.7	534,343	47.0

	Jarrow		South Tyneside		North-east		England	
	Number of pupils[1, 2]	Percentage of pupils gaining 5+ A*-C[3]	Number of pupils[1, 2]	Percentage of pupils gaining 5+ A*-C[3]	Number of pupils[1, 2]	Percentage of pupils gaining 5+ A*-C[3]	Number of pupils[1, 2]	Percentage of pupils gaining 5+ A*-C[3]
2001	1,056	42.3	2,020	39.1	31,826	42.5	554,506	47.9
2002	1,055	42.7	2,142	42.2	31,712	44.3	558,002	49.5
2003	1,060	40.6	2,054	43.5	32,045	46.8	572,040	51.1
2004	1,029	45.3	2,020	45.1	32,409	48.7	590,096	52.0
2005	948	52.4	1,933	51.7	31,007	53.6	582,876	55.0
2006	986	56.0	2,003	55.5	31,679	57.4	592,485	57.5
2007	1,081	60.4	2,096	59.3	32,570	60.6	598,767	60.1
2008	997	66.3	1,954	64.9	32,112	66.5	595,806	64.6
2009[4]	980	76.3	1,914	77.5	30,671	72.8	576,430	70.0

[1] From 2006 figures are for pupils at the end of key stage 4. Prior to 2006 results are based on pupils aged 15.
[2] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including academies and city technology colleges) and from 2000 does not include pupils recently arrived from overseas.
[3] From 2004 results incorporate GCSEs, GNVQs and a range of other qualifications approved pre-16. Prior to 2004 results are based on GCSEs and GNVQs only.
[4] Revised data.
Source:
School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils did not obtain at least one GCSE at Grade C or above, excluding equivalents, in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* local education authority in 2009. [321665]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 11 March 2010]*: The information requested for pupils attending maintained schools (including special schools, city technology colleges and academies) has been placed in the House Libraries.

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils who were *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals achieved five A* or A grades at GCSE, including English and mathematics but excluding equivalents in the (i) earliest and (ii) most recent year for which figures are available. [310643]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 January 2010]*: Pupil level attainment data by free school meal eligibility are only available from 2003 onwards. The information requested is presented in the following table and is for maintained schools only.

	Number of pupils[1] achieving 5 or more A* or A grades at GCSE including English and Maths (excluding equivalents)		Percentage achieving 5 or more A* or A grades at GCSE including English and Maths (excluding equivalents)	
	Eligible for FSM	Not eligible for FSM	Eligible for FSM	Not eligible for FSM
2003	791	33,538	1.0	6.8
2009[2]	1,254	45,294	1.7	9.0

[1] Figures for 2003 are based on pupils aged 15 and 2009 figures are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4.
[2] Figures for 2009 are provisional.
Source:
National Pupil Database

GCSE: Greater Manchester

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in schools in *(a)* the City of Manchester and *(b)* Manchester Central constituency gained five GCSEs at grades A* to C or equivalent in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009. [322294]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is given in the following table:

GCSE and equivalents[1] results for pupils[2] attending schools[3] in Manchester local authority and Manchester Central constituency

	1997		2009[6]	
	Number of pupils[5]	Percentage of pupils gaining 5+ A*-C	Number of pupils[5]	Percentage of pupils gaining 5+ A*-C
Manchester Central constituency	508	28.5	384	66.7
Manchester local authority	3,959	26.3	4,685	62.6
England[4]	586,766	45.1	634,507	70.0

[1] From 2004 results incorporate GCSEs, GNVQs and a range of other qualifications approved pre-16. Prior to 2004 results are based on GCSEs and GNVQs only.
[2] From 2006 figures are for pupils at the end of key stage 4. Prior to 2006 results are based on pupils aged 15.
[3] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including Academies and City Technology Colleges) and from 2000 does not include pupils recently arrived from overseas.
[4] England figures also include independent schools as well as hospital schools and PRUs.
[5] Number of pupils on roll aged 15 at the start of the academic year or at the end of key stage 4.
[6] Revised data.
Source:
School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables

National Curriculum Tests

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children achieved at least level 3 in each subject at Key Stage 1 in each year since such assessments were introduced. [317741]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* The information is shown in the following tables.

Reading: Key Stage 1

Task/test and Teacher Assessment Results

	% of students who achieved at or above the given level			*No. of students achieving at or above the given level*		
	Level 2	*Level 2B*[1]	*Level 3*	*Level 2*	*Level 2B*[1]	*Level 3*
1995	78	—	33	466,500	—	199,600
1996	78	—	30	464,600	—	176,600
1997	80	—	26	489,500	—	160,300
1998	80	62	26	500,800	389,000	163,600
1999	82	66	29	513,000	412,000	184,300
2000	83	68	28	504,600	409,200	168,900
2001	84	69	29	505,700	413,600	174,400
2002	84	69	30	495,700	405,000	177,200
2003	84	69	28	487,900	401,300	162,200
2004[2]	85	71	29	499,100	415,700	168,000
2005	85	72	27	484,800	411,500	153,500
2006	84	71	26	474,500	400,600	143,900
2007	84	71	26	458,300	388,900	141,300
2008	84	71	25	450,600	382,800	135,900
2009 (provisional)	84	72	26	449,900	383,400	138,200

Writing: Key Stage 1

Task/test and Teacher Assessment Results

	% of students who achieved at or above the given level			*No. of students who achieved at or above the given level*		
	Level 2	*Level 2B*[2]	*Level 3*	*Level 2*	*Level 2B*[2]	*Level 3*
1995	80	—	15	477,300	—	88,200
1996[1]	79	—	6	474,600	—	36,700
1997	80	—	6	490,200	—	36,900
1998	81	48	7	507,800	304,000	45,200
1999	83	53	8	519,600	335,400	51,000
2000	84	57	9	511,000	341,900	53,400
2001	86	59	9	515,800	353,100	57,100
2002	86	60	9	506,100	351,200	55,800
2003	81	62	16	471,000	358,700	93,400
2004[3]	82	62	16	480,900	362,900	93,500
2005	82	62	15	469,200	351,100	85,800
2006	81	60	14	457,300	339,100	78,300
2007	80	59	13	439,300	321,500	69,000
2008	80	58	12	429,800	314,000	65,300
2009 (provisional)	81	60	12	431,100	318,100	65,900

Mathematics: Key Stage 1

Task/test and Teacher Assessment Results

	% of students who achieved at or above the given level			*No. of students who achieved at or above the given level*		
	Level 2	*Level 2B*[2]	*Level 3*	*Level 2*	*Level 2B*[2]	*Level 3*
1995	79	—	19	470,700	—	116,200
1996	82	—	19	491,500	—	114,300
1997	84	—	20	512,700	—	124,400
1998	84	61	19	529,000	382,500	118,400
1999	87	64	21	544,000	399,000	134,000
2000	90	73	25	542,900	440,800	153,000
2001	91	75	28	546,100	454,300	166,700
2002	90	76	31	531,900	445,100	184,200
2003	90	73	29	523,300	426,000	169,400
2004[3]	90	75	28	531,500	443,600	165,700
2005	91	74	23	518,000	421,900	130,400
2006	90	73	21	507,300	410,600	120,400
2007	90	74	22	491,800	404,200	120,500
2008	90	74	21	481,300	395,600	114,400
2009 (provisional)	89	74	21	476,900	392,400	112,700

Science: Key Stage 1

Teacher Assessment Results

	% of students who achieved at or above the given level			*No. of Students who achieved at or above the given level*		
	Level 2	*Level 2B[3]*	*Level 3*	*Level 2*	*Level 2B[3]*	*Level 3*
2005	90	—	25	510,500	—	142,400
2006	89	—	24	501,400	—	133,000
2007	89	—	23	486,100	—	125,200
2008	89	—	22	476,300	—	118,800
2009 (provisional)	89	—	22	473,800	—	116,700

[1] The assessment of writing changed in 1996 and is not comparable to earlier years.

[2] Figures prior to 2004 are based on task/test assessments. Figures for 2004 are based on a combination of task/test assessment in non-pilot schools and new post-2004 teacher assessment arrangements in pilot schools. Figures for 2005 onward are based on post-2004 teacher assessment arrangements. There were no test/task reporting arrangements for science, therefore data prior to 2005 are not available. Figures from 2004 onwards are not directly comparable with those prior to 2004, and care is needed in interpreting trends in the data.

[3] Prior to 1998 data on sub-levels are not available. Science data is not reported at sub-level therefore figures for 2B are not available.

Notes:

1. All figures are based on final data, with the exception of 2009 which is based on provisional data.
2. Numbers are rounded to nearest 100.
3. Percentages are rounded to nearest percentage point.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children in receipt of free school meals achieved at least level *(a)* 2 and *(b)* 2b in each subject at Key Stage 1 in each year since the introduction of such assessments. [317745]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* The requested information is given in the following table.

Percentage of pupils achieving each level in key stage 1 assessments by free school meals eligibility. Years: 2002 to 2009. Coverage: England

		Percentage of pupils achieving:									
	No. of eligible pupils	*Absent/ unable*	*Disapplied*	*Working towards level 1*	*1*	*2C*	*2B*	*2A*	*3*	*4*	*2+*
Reading											
2002	106,152	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	69
2003	102,793	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	69
2004	108,726	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	70
2005	101,276	0	0	8	22	18	24	17	11	0	70
2006	95,430	0	0	8	23	18	24	17	10	0	69
2007	94,221	0	0	8	24	17	23	18	11	0	69
2008	90,638	0	0	7	24	17	23	18	10	0	69
2009	92,439	0	0	6	23	17	24	18	11	0	71
Writing											
2002 (Writing)	106,153	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	72
2002 (Spelling)	106,151	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	61
2003	102,794	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	64
2004	108,728	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	66
2005	101,285	0	0	11	22	26	23	12	5	0	66
2006	95,430	0	0	11	24	26	22	12	5	[1]—	65
2007	94,221	0	0	11	26	26	22	11	4	0	63
2008	90,637	0	0	10	26	26	22	11	4	[1]—	64
2009	92,437	0	0	8	26	26	24	12	4	0	66
Mathematics											
2002	106,152	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	81
2003	102,794	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	80
2004	108,728	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	80
2005	101,301	0	0	5	13	25	26	21	10	0	81
2006	95,430	0	0	5	14	25	26	20	9	[1]—	80
2007	94,221	0	0	5	15	23	26	21	9	0	80
2008	90,638	0	0	5	16	23	26	21	9	[1]—	79
2009	92,455	0	0	4	16	23	28	20	9	0	80
Science											
2005	101,306	0	—	3	18	—	68	—	11	0	78
2006	95,423	0	—	3	19	—	68	—	10	0	78
2007	94,218	0	—	3	19	—	68	—	9	0	77

Percentage of pupils achieving each level in key stage 1 assessments by free school meals eligibility. Years: 2002 to 2009. Coverage: England

					Percentage of pupils achieving:						
	No. of eligible pupils	*Absent/ unable*	*Disapplied*	*Working towards level 1*	*1*	*2C*	*2B*	*2A*	*3*	*4*	*2+*
2008	90,638	0	—	3	19	—	68	—	9	0	77
2009	92,425	0	—	3	19	—	69	—	9	0	78

[1] Indicates figure suppressed due to small cohort size.

Notes:

1. Pupil level collection of FSM eligibility began with the 2002 School Census, therefore no data are available prior to 2002.
2. Figures prior to 2004 are based on tests, 2004 are based on a combination of test and teacher assessment, 2005 and later based on teacher assessment.
3. Science figures are unavailable prior to 2005 as science test results were not collected centrally.
4. In 2003 significant changes were introduced to the assessment of writing. A separate level for spelling was not reported separately, instead marks for spelling contributed to the pupils' writing level and there was a new mark scheme for the two writing tasks.
5. Level distributions prior to 2005 are not available.
6. Percentages rounded to nearest percentage point.
7. Data cover maintained schools only.

National Curriculum Tests: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many 11-year-olds in schools in Leeds North West constituency attained level four or above in Key Stage 2 in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009; [319509]

(2) how many 14-year-olds in schools in Leeds North West constituency obtained level five or above in Key Stage 3 in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [319510]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is given in the following tables:

Key Stage 2 results of 11 year-old pupils[1] attending schools in the Leeds North West constituency

	Number of pupils eligible		*Number of pupils gaining level 4 and above*		*Percentage of pupils gaining level 4 and above*	
	1997	*2009[2]*	*1997*	*2009[2]*	*1997*	*2009[2]*
Leeds North West						
English	847	611	633	530	75	87
Maths	847	611	588	506	69	83
Science	847	611	661	558	78	91

[1] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including Academies and City Technology Colleges)

[2] Revised data.

Source:

School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables

Key Stage 3 results of 14 year-old pupils[1] attending schools in the Leeds North West constituency

	Number of pupils eligible		*Number of pupils gaining level 5 and above*		*Percentage of pupils gaining level 5 and above*	
	1997	*2008[2]*	*1997*	*2008[2]*	*1997*	*2008[2]*
Leeds North West						
English	810	883	480	711	59	81
Maths	818	883	553	740	68	84
Science	814	881	537	676	66	77

[1] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including Academies and City Technology Colleges).

[2] Key Stage 3 Tests were discontinued after 2008. From 2009 National Curriculum Assessment at Key Stage 3 is based on Teacher Assessments.

Source:

School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables and National Pupil Database

Pupil Exclusions: Poole

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils excluded from school in Poole were readmitted on appeal in the latest period for which figures are available. [320385]

Mr. Coaker: During 2007-08 there were no appeals against permanent exclusions in Poole local authority area.

School Improvement Partners: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on School Improvement Partners in the latest year for which figures are available. [321274]

Mr. Coaker: The amount spent by the Department on School Improvement Partners in the latest year (2009-10) was £29.9 million. Of this, £23.5 million came directly through the DCSF via the Area based Grant (ABG) and £6.4 million was spent through the National Strategies' management and delivery of the SIP programme.

Schools: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils in schools in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point obtained five GCSEs at grade A* to C or equivalent in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009; [318090]

(2) how many 11-year-olds in schools in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point attained level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009; [318093]

(3) how many 14-year-olds in schools in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point obtained level 5 or above in Key Stage 3 in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009; [318094]

(4) if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Castle Point constituency, the effects on that constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [318095]

Mr. Coaker: Since 1997 the Government have transformed education and child care with improved outcomes for children and young people. Figures showing the performance at Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3 and at GCSE and equivalents in Castle Point constituency and Essex local authority are given in the following tables.

Key Stage 2 results of 11-year-old pupils attending schools in the Castle Point constituency and Essex local authority

	Number of eligible pupils		*Number of pupils gaining level 4 and above*		*Percentage of pupils gaining level 4 and above[1]*	
	1997	*2009[2]*	*1997*	*2009[2]*	*1997*	*2009[2]*
Castle Point						
English	1,085	1,003	730	786	67	78
Maths	1,085	1,003	643	774	59	77
Science	1,085	1,003	726	866	67	86
Essex						
English[3]	18,378	15,427	11,575	12,354	63	80
Maths[3]	18,432	15,426	11,320	12,163	61	79
Science[3]	18,426	15,427	12,335	13,674	67	89
England						
English	573,641	565,132	359,860	453,044	62	80
Maths	573,922	565,129	352,800	445,625	61	79
Science	573,959	565,201	391,685	499,192	68	88

[1] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including academies and city technology colleges).

[2] Revised data.

[3] 1997 LA data is not directly comparable with 2009 LA data due to local government reorganisation in 1998.

Source:

School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables.

Key Stage 3 results of 14-year-old pupils attending schools in the Castle Point constituency and Essex local authority

	Number of eligible pupils		*Number of pupils gaining level 5 and above*		*Percentage of pupils gaining level 5 and above[1]*	
	1997	*2008[2]*	*1997*	*2008[2]*	*1997*	*2008[2]*
Castle Point						
English	1,221	1,250	811	954	66	76
Maths	1,221	1,249	753	951	62	76
Science	1,221	1,248	689	872	56	70
Essex						
English[3]	17,641	16,639	10,428	12,665	59	76
Maths[3]	17,670	16,655	11,217	13,039	63	78
Science[3]	17,686	16,674	10,960	12,199	62	73
England						
English	541,744	591,634	310,578	437,798	57	74
Maths	543,745	592,145	324,615	453,921	60	77
Science	543,869	592,105	326,852	423,960	60	72

[1] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including academies and city technology colleges).

[2] Key Stage 3 Tests were discontinued after 2008. From 2009 National Curriculum Assessment at Key Stage 3 is based on teacher assessments.

[3] 1997 LA data is not directly comparable with 2009 LA data due to local government reorganisation in 1998.

Source:

School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables and National Pupil Database.

GCSE and equivalents[1] results for pupils[2] attending schools[3] in the Castle Point constituency and Essex local authority

	Number of eligible pupils		*Number of pupils gaining*		*Percentage of pupils gaining*	
	1997	*2009[4]*	*1997*	*2009[4]*	*1997*	*2009[4]*
Castle Point						
5+ A*-C	1,201	1,239	503	831	41.9	67.1
5+ A*-G	1,201	1,239	1,087	1,173	90.5	94.7
Essex						
5+ A*-C[5]	17,914	16,136	7,994	11,006	44.6	68.2
5+ A*-G[5]	17,914	16,136	15,943	15,039	89.0	93.2

GCSE and equivalents[1] results for pupils[2] attending schools[3] in the Castle Point constituency and Essex local authority

	Number of eligible pupils		*Number of pupils gaining*		*Percentage of pupils gaining*	
	1997	*2009[4]*	*1997*	*2009[4]*	*1997*	*2009[4]*
England						
5+ A*-C	537,661	576,430	228,646	403,501	42.5	70.0
5+ A*-G	537,661	576,430	467624	540,115	87.0	93.7

[1] From 2004 results incorporate GCSEs, GNVQs and a range of other qualifications approved pre-16. Prior to 2004 results are based on GCSEs and GNVQs only.

[2] From 2006 figures are for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. Prior to 2006 results are based on pupils aged 15.

[3] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including academies and city technology colleges) and from 2000 does not include pupils recently arrived from overseas.

[4] Revised data.

[5] 1997 LA data is not directly comparable with 2009 LA data due to local government reorganisation in 1998. Source: School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables.

Further information by constituency is available on the Department's "In Your Area" website:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/inyourarea

The information available at constituency level includes the number of specialist schools, number of operational academies, number of teaching assistants and other support staff, number of teachers and pupil:teacher ratios. Where information is not available at constituency level it has been provided at local authority level including the number of free early education places taken up by three and four-year-olds, number of full-time and part-time entrants to higher education institutions aged 18 to 20, the average A level point score per candidate and per entry together with the percentage of people of working age qualified to at least level 2 and percentage of people of working age qualified to level 4 and above.

Additional information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Teachers: Standards

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what his most recent assessment is of the operation of the system of continuous professional development of teachers; [322301]

(2) what his policy is for the future of the system of continuous professional development of teachers. [322302]

Mr. Coaker: It is clear that initial teacher education programmes, schools and the quality of teaching and learning have all improved in recent years. However, we recognise that there is still more to do to ensure that every child experiences high-quality teaching in every lesson, and that teachers are equipped to deal with the challenges posed by the 21st century schools system.

Good CPD has a positive impact on teachers' practice and leads to improvements in pupil attainment and other outcomes and the Department is working with the Training and Development Agency (TDA) and other partners to take significant action to improve the quality and take up of CPD provision.

In November 2009 TDA published a new professional development strategy (PDS) which includes plans to strengthen CPD leadership, impact evaluation and training for support staff, and is underpinned by three key priorities of embedding a learning culture within schools, increasing coherence and collaboration and improving quality and capacity. The PDS can be found on TDA's website:

www.tda.gov.uk/partners/cpd/
pds_cwds.aspx?keywords=professional+development+strategy

Teachers in the north-west and challenging schools are now eligible for enrolment for the new Masters in Teaching and Learning (MTL). The MTL builds on Initial Teacher Training (ITT) and induction and will have immediate relevance to teaching and learning in the classroom, focusing on developing and honing teachers' practice through inquiry and use of evidence. The MTL will also help schools to develop an increasingly collaborative culture of professional development.

Additionally, the new Licence to Practise alongside a CPD entitlement will ensure that all teachers have access to the CPD they need to guarantee they continue to be effective in the classroom.

Ofsted's 2006 report on CPD, 'The Logical Chain' found that the most effective CPD takes place in schools. With this in mind our White Paper 'Your Child, Your School, Our Future: Building a 21st century schools system' gave TDA and the National College a joint remit to provide advice on how a nationwide network of quality assured CPD can be delivered through school clusters, utilising existing provision such as Training Schools, Teaching Schools and Leadership Development Schools. Ministers have welcomed preliminary advice on how this can be achieved and further advice is expected in spring 2010.The ministerial advice can be found on TDA's website:

http://www.tda.gov.uk/upload/resources/pdf/t/training_
schools_ministerial_letter221209.pdf

To help ensure that schools and teachers become more informed consumers in identifying effective and quality assured professional development TDA has now also rolled out a new national database with an associated code of practice. There are currently over 4,000 opportunities for professional development listed on this database:

http://www.tda.gov.uk/partners/cpd/cpdzone.aspx?
keywords=CPD+database

We are confident that our policies will ensure that schools and the school work force are equipped to meet the challenges of the 21st Century School and, thus, improve outcomes for children and young people.

UK Youth Parliament

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish his response to the document Preventing Terrorism and Violent Extremism produced by the UK Youth Parliament and commissioned jointly by his Department and the Home Office. [319791]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 3 March 2010]:* Officials in the Department are working with the UK Youth Parliament to discuss the recommendations made in the report and decide on the next steps to take in response to the document.

Vocational Education

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what mechanisms are in place for the benchmarking of teaching practice in vocational courses in schools. [313298]

Mr. Coaker: Ofsted assesses the quality of teaching and learning during its regular inspections of schools and uses a consistent approach across all subjects. However, it does not routinely report on teaching of individual subjects. Ofsted can, through its survey programme, undertake more detailed studies of specific areas.

Youth Justice: Finance

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for which parts of the youth justice budget he plans to protect funding in each of the next three years. [321630]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 11 March 2010]:* As per the letter of 15 February 2010 sent to the hon. Gentleman jointly by my hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Garston (Maria Eagle) and myself, I can confirm that funding allocated to the Youth Justice Board for front-line services aimed at tackling youth crime will be protected at 2009/10 levels in 2010/11.

Funding for financial years 2011/12 and 2012/13 will be subject to future spending review decisions.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate has been made of the number of learners with a learning difficulty and/or a learning disability whose education provision will be funded by the Skills Funding Agency in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [322361]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills routes funding through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for the provision of Further Education (FE) and training for adult learners aged 19 and over.

For the 2009/10 academic year this included funding for all learners aged 19 and above with a learning difficulty or disability (LDD). For the 2010/11 academic year responsibility for funding learners with LDD aged between 19 and 25 with high level needs will pass to the Young People's Learning Agency and local authorities. Funding for all other learners aged 19 or over will be the responsibility of the Skills Funding Agency.

Investing in FE and skills training for these learners remains a priority and we remain committed to maintaining future opportunities for them. This means making available the right level of support so that FE colleges and training organisations are able to meet their needs.

The number of learners aged 19 and over learning in mainstream provision with a self declared LDD varies from year to year depending on demand, but has been around 200,000 each year from 2006/07 to 2008/09 academic year (the latest whole year for which data is available).

The LSC Statement of Priorities 2009-10 (November, 2008) and the Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11 (November 2009) confirmed our commitment to at least maintain these volumes for the 2009/10 and 2010/11 academic year. The actual numbers supported will depend on demand.

Apprentices: Standards

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department have attended on apprenticeship targets. [321675]

Kevin Brennan: Ministers in both DCSF and BIS have responsibilities for apprenticeships. Targets are set through an annual planning cycle which involves officials and Ministers to determine the programme budget and numbers of apprenticeships to be delivered. These have been published in the BIS Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11 and the DCSF 16-19 Statement of Priorities and Investment Strategy 2010-11. The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) has responsibility for delivery of apprenticeship targets and Ministers from both Departments meet monthly with the NAS and officials to discuss performance and progress.

The apprenticeships programme also contributes to the 14-19 Reform programme in DCSF and the Skills programme in BIS. There are regular meetings to manage these programmes at both official level and between Ministers, the NAS and officials, at which progress against targets is discussed.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many freedom of information requests his Department, its predecessors and its executive agencies replied to in each of the last five years. [321687]

Mr. McFadden: BIS and its predecessors has replied to the following number of freedom of information requests in each of the last five years:

	Number
2005	694
2006	578
2007	521
2008	799
2009	1,053

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 12 March 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 8 March 2010, UIN 321687 to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House received the following number of Freedom of Information requests in each of the last five calendar years:

	Number
2005	90
2006	101
2007	106
2008	116
2009	210

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 11 March 2010:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question—"how many freedom of information requests his Department, its predecessors and its executive agencies replied to in each of the last five years".

The Insolvency Service is a public authority for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act. There are no requirements under the Act for a public authority to record or catalogue requests that are received, irrespective of whether the request refers to the Act or must be dealt with under the provisions of the Act. From January 2009 Cabinet Office instructions were incorporated within The Service's Security Policy Framework Document to fulfil HMG requirements for the central recording and reporting of Freedom of Information requests.

Any logging or recording of requests for information prior to January 2009 was done for administrative purposes, to meet the stated policy of the public authority and any existing requirements imposed by Central Government.

The Insolvency Service has not centrally logged all requests received across The Service for the period from January 2005 to December 2008 and individual Directorates within The Service were responsible for responding to the requests they received. Consequently the figure provided below may well be a slight understatement of actual requests received and dealt with by The Service.

In the period March 2005 to February 2010 The Insolvency Service has recorded a total of 1,238 requests.

Letter from John Alty, dated 10 March 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 8 March 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The number of freedom of information requests received by the Intellectual Property Office from 2005 to 2009, are as follows:

FOI requests

	Number
2005	48
2006	37
2007	15
2008	113
2009	167
Total	380

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 9 March 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (NMO) (formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML)) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 08/03/2010 [reference 2009/1630] to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking how many Freedom of Information requests his Department, its predecessors and its executive agencies replied to in each of the last five years.

The number of Freedom of Information requests handled by NMO (2009/10) and NWML (2005/09) was:

	Number
2005/06	0
2006/07	1
2007/08	7
2008/09	8
2009/10	10

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what information technology projects initiated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were cancelled prior to completion in the last 12 months; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [320431]

Mr. McFadden: In the last 12 months the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has not cancelled prior to completion any information technology projects.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 8 March 2010:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question what information technology projects initiated by (a) his Department and (b) its agencies were cancelled prior to completion in the last 12 months; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse.

In the last 12 months, The Insolvency Service has not cancelled any of the information technology projects it has initiated.

Letter from John Alty, dated 3 March 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 01 March 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The only information technology project that we have cancelled prior to completion in the last 12 months was a pilot to investigate the feasibility of obtaining wider input to the patenting process. The cost up to that point was £142k.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 3 March 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (formerly the National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 1st March 2010 [reference 2009/1518] to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking about information technology projects which have been cancelled prior to completion in the last 12 months.

No information technology projects initiated by the National Measurement Office were cancelled prior to completion during this period.

Letter from Gareth Jones:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 1 March 2010, UIN 320431, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House has not cancelled any Information Technology projects prior to completion in the last twelve months.

Departmental Public Relations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which public relations companies have had contracts with *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its (i) non-departmental public bodies and (ii) executive agencies since 2004. [319766]

Mr. McFadden: The following public relations companies have been employed since 2004/05. Most of these companies have been procured via the Central Office of Information (COI). External public relations companies are used for raising public awareness on specific issues and are only used where the internal specialism is not available.

Company	*Area of work*
2009/10 BIS (including former BERR and DIUS)	
Four Communications	Vulnerable Workers, Family Rights, Consumer Tipping Awareness and National Minimum Wage campaigns
Cohn and Wolfe	Employing People campaign; Climate Change and Media Audit
Fishburn Hedges	Employee engagement campaign
Consolidated	Student Finance and Employability
Kindred	Science (So What? So Everything) and Informal Adult Learning
Grayling	Iawards
Band and Brown	FE Colleges Week
Forster	Academic Freedom Debates
2008/09 BERR	
Cohn and Wolfe	Employing People campaign Flexible working campaign
Trimedia Harrison Cowley	Consumer Protection Regulations campaign
Highlight PR	Queen's Awards campaign
Gavin Anderson	Renewable Energy campaign
2008/09 DIUS	
Consolidated	Student Finance and Employability
Kindred	Science (So What? So Everything)
Band and Brown	FE Colleges Week
Cohn and Wolfe	Climate Change
Forster	Academic Freedom Debates
2007/08 BERR	
Geronimo Communications	Enterprising Britain campaign
Gavin Anderson (UK) Ltd.	Renewable energy campaign
GCI London	Employing People campaign
Highlight PR	Queen's Awards campaign
Trimedia Harrison Cowley Ltd.	Fireworks safety campaign Consumer Protection Regulations Campaign
2007/08 DIUS	
Consolidated	Student Finance and Employability
2006/07 DTI	
GCI London	Business Link campaign
Fishburn Hedges	Gap Analysis campaign
Gavin Anderson (UK) Ltd.	DTI Renewable Energy campaign
Geronimo Communications	SBS Enterprising Britain campaign
2005/06 DTI	
Wright Communications	Consumer Direct campaign
Harrison Cowley	Consumer Direct campaign
Gavin Anderson (UK) Ltd.	DTI Renewable Energy campaign
Geronimo Communications	SBS Enterprising Britain campaign
GCI London	SBS Interim campaign PR activity
DTI 2004/05	
GCI London	DTI Best Practice
Portfolio Metrica	DTI Best Practice Media Evaluation
Fishburn Hedges	DTI Dispute Resolution campaign
Porter Novelli Ltd.	DTI Renewables
Broadsystem	SBS Sunday Times Enterprise Network Sponsorship

The Department does not hold centrally the information you request on non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) and this could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I have approached the Chief Executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 2 March 2010:

The Minister of State, Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has asked me to reply to your question which public relations companies have had contracts with (a) his Department and (b) each (i) non-departmental public body, (ii) executive agency since 2004.

The following public relations companies have had contracts with The Insolvency Service since 2004: GfK NOP and Laura McCaffrey Editorial.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 26 February 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 24 February 2010 UIN 319766 to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House has not had contracts with any public relations companies since 2004.

Letter from John Alty, dated 26 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 24 February 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Since 2004, The Intellectual Property Office, an executive agency of BIS, has had contracts with the following three (3) public relations companies:

Prowse & Co

Bell Design

Eulogy.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 15 March 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 24 February 2010 to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking which public relations companies have had contracts with the Department and its Executive Agencies since 2004.

The then National Weights & Measures Laboratory, at that time an Executive Agency of the DTI, had a contract with Icas PR, 4 The Waterhouse, Waterhouse Street, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1 EN, which ran from May 2004 to July 2005. The Agency has had no contracts with public relations companies since that date.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department and its agencies spent on external recruitment consultants in the last 12 months. [315286]

Mr. McFadden: Central records indicate that the Department spent £59,928 on external recruitment consultants since its inception (announced on 5 June 2009) to 31 December 2009.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 15 March 2010:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has asked me to reply to your question, how much his Department and its agencies spent on external recruitment consultants in the last 12 months.

The Insolvency Service employs a large number of temporary staff. Financial records show that in the 12 months from February 2009 to January 2010 (inclusive) it spent £20,512,282 on temporary staff supplied by several agencies. Agency recruitment charges are estimated to be between 12.5% and 18% of this total, i.e. between £2,564,035 and £3,692,211.

A more exact estimate of the amount spent on external recruitment consultants can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 11 February 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 29 January 2010, UIN 315286, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House has spent £30,500 on external recruitment consultants in the last 12 months.

Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated 2 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 29 January 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

In the period February 09-January 2010 the Intellectual Property Office spent £59,000 on external recruitment consultants. These costs were incurred in recruiting and assessing lay members of a tribunal.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 2 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 29 January 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking how much was spent on external recruitment consultants in the last 12 months.

The National Measurement Office spent £7,103.00 on external recruitment in the twelve months ending 31 January 2010.

Departmental Travel

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what expenditure his Department has incurred on international travel since 2007. [319752]

Mr. McFadden: The expenditure incurred on international travel by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills since 2007 is:

	£
2007	2,768,317
2008	3,634,638
2009	3,493,441

Education: Wolverhampton

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much capital expenditure his Department has allocated to *(a)* the University of Wolverhampton and *(b)* Wolverhampton further education colleges since 1997. [322264]

Kevin Brennan: Capital expenditure for the higher education sector is administered by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). Since 1997, HEFCE has allocated £41.191 million to the University of Wolverhampton for capital related developments.

Capital expenditure for the further education sector has been administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) since April 2001. Before this time, capital expenditure was administered by the Further Education Funding Council. Since 2001, a total of £6.5 billion of projects have been approved "in detail" including an LSC grant support of £3.4 billion. Since 1997, £5.478 million of capital grant support has been allocated to the City of Wolverhampton College.

Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to deal with anti-Semitism (i) on university campuses and (ii) in student unions; what recent discussions he has had on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [321837]

Mr. Lammy: This Department has set up a group on anti-Semitism and higher education to facilitate discussions between the Jewish community and higher education stakeholders, which I chair. This group covers all issues relating to anti-Semitism on campus and plays an important role in helping to tackle anti-Semitism in higher education. The two meetings that have taken place have resulted in practical actions to be taken forward by higher education stakeholders and Jewish community representatives working collaboratively.

I also attended the recent Jewish student Lobby of Parliament in February 2010 where I heard from students about their experiences at university and made clear once again the Government's strong opposition to anti-Semitism and any form of racism in higher education.

I was appalled at the rise in total anti-Semitic incident figures shown in the recent Community Security Trust annual report, in particular the very disturbing 38 incidents against one academic.

However, the overall trend in HE showed a 13 per cent. decrease from 2008.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings have been held of the higher education sub-group of the cross-government working group on anti-Semitism since January 2009; who from each Civil Service grade attended each meeting; what was discussed at each meeting; what further meetings are planned; and if he will make a statement. [321838]

Mr. Lammy: There have been two meetings of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' (BIS) anti-Semitism and higher education group, in April 2009 chaired by me and in November 2009 chaired by my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Postal Affairs and Employment Relations and by Martin Williams, the Director for Higher Education in BIS. At each meeting a ministerial private secretary was present and also a policy official (higher executive officer). A further meeting is due to be arranged for spring 2010.

The first meeting discussed anti-Semitic incident monitoring in higher education (HE), and how this was reported by students. The second meeting included updates from members of the group on their wider work on equality and diversity, including tackling anti-Semitism, and on the recent guidance for students, "A Student's Guide to Antisemtism on Campus", produced by the Union of Jewish Students and the Community Security Trust. Both meetings resulted in agreement to a number of practical actions which are being taken forward by HE stakeholders and the Jewish community.

We are committed to encouraging higher education institutions to ensure discrimination has no place in any of their policies or practices and to act swiftly when incidents or complaints are brought to their attention. One of the most important ways of tackling any form of racism in our universities is to ensure there is a dialogue between the universities, students and minority communities and this Department has been instrumental in fostering communication between the Jewish community and higher education. An important part of this work has been the establishment of the BIS anti-Semitism and higher education group, which brings together student representatives, representatives of the Jewish community and key HE sector bodies.

Higher Education: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people resident in Milton Keynes *(a)* applied for and *(b)* were accepted onto a place at university in each of the last three years. [321874]

Mr. Lammy: The information is given in the table.

Applicants and accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses via UCAS from Milton Keynes local authority[1]

	Year of entry		
	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Applicants	1,727	1,966	2,295
Accepted applicants	1,389	1,574	1,742

[1] Based on the declared home address of the applicant. *Source:* UCAS.

Higher Education: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people from City of York constituency started a degree course in *(a)* 1996, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2009. [322119]

Mr. Lammy: The number of young (under 21) undergraduate entrants, from the City of York constituency, to UK higher education institutions is shown in the table. Figures are taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and are provided for the 1996/97, 2005/06 and 2008/09 academic years. Data for the 2009/10 academic year will become available from January 2011.

Young[1] *undergraduate entrants*[2] *from the City of York constituency*[3]*. UK higher education institutions*[4]*. Academic years 1996/97, 2005/06 and 2008/09*

Academic year	*Entrants*
1996/97	260
2005/06	415
2008/09	410

[1] Covers entrants under the age of 21.

[2] Covers entrants to full-time and part-time courses.

[3] The table does not include entrants where the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.

[4] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of students across the time series.

Note:

Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UK *(a)* undergraduate and *(b)* post graduate students there were at the (i) University of York and (ii) University of York St John in each year since 1996-97. [322121]

Mr. Lammy: The numbers of UK-domiciled undergraduate and postgraduate enrolments at the University of York and York St John University in each year since 1996/97 are provided in the table.

UK-domiciled undergraduate and postgraduate enrolments[1] *University of York and York St. John University—academic years 1996-97 to 2008-09*

	University of York		*York St John University*	
	Undergraduate	*Postgraduate*	*Undergraduate*	*Postgraduate*
1996-97	4,965	1,265	3,620	290
1997-98	5,340	1,245	3,465	390
1998-99	5,750	1,240	3,480	415
1999-2000	5,830	1,390	3,415	540
2000-01	6,145	1,430	3,660	525
2001-02	6,725	1,625	3,915	660
2002-03	6,965	1,710	4,465	810
2003-04	7,320	1,975	4,280	775
2004-05	7,600	1,920	4,385	610
2005-06	8,215	2,040	5,110	705
2006-07	8,080	1,785	4,875	730
2007-08	8,030	1,880	4,825	615

UK-domiciled undergraduate and postgraduate enrolments[1] University of York and York St. John University—academic years 1996-97 to 2008-09

	University of York		*York St John University*	
	Undergraduate	*Postgraduate*	*Undergraduate*	*Postgraduate*
2008-09	8,105	2,100	5,270	620

[1] Covers students of all ages enrolled on full-time and part-time courses.

Notes:

Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Islamic Organisations: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has provided funding to Islamic organisations in each year since 2005. [321698]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not separately record companies or organisations that receive grant or other funding under the heading of "Islamic", and thus an exercise to try and obtain such information would be unlikely to be successful. Establishing this and obtaining the information could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Minimum Wage

Mr. Cash: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make an assessment of the extent to which income at the rate of the national minimum wage is sufficient to meet the average cost of living. [321620]

Mr. McFadden: The National Minimum Wage (NMW) is a key part of the Government's wider strategy for achieving a fair minimum income from work. Because individuals situations vary, the NMW needs to be considered along with other measures for alleviating poverty, such as tax credits. These take account of individual circumstances and can therefore better target resources on those who need it most.

National Science and Engineering Week

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has to mark National Science and Engineering Week. [320954]

Mr. Lammy: BIS funds the co-ordination of National Science and Engineering Week (NSEW), including a £100,000 fund for over 400 schools in challenging circumstances to organise their own science and engineering events. My noble Friend the Minister of State for Science and Innovation wrote to all MPs encouraging them to get involved with activities during NSEW. We identified opportunities, within already busy schedules, for BIS Ministers and departmental representatives to contribute to events during the week.

Underlining the Department's support for NSEW, there was considerable ministerial involvement at the annual Big Bang: UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair, which took place on 11-13 March, and included the finals of the UK National Science and Engineering Competition. Ministerial involvement included:

My noble Friend the Minister of State for Science and Innovation engaged in outreach activities on 12 March as a STEM ambassador;

My noble Friend the Secretary of State attended the Big Bang event on 12 March and presented awards to finalists of the National Science and Engineering Competition; and

My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business and Regulatory Reform attended on 13 March.

NSEW is being promoted throughout Science week on the Department's website:

www.bis.gov.uk

Overseas Companies: Ethiopia

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which British companies were operating in Ethiopia on the latest date for which information is available. [322317]

Ian Lucas: UKTI is aware of 64 British companies that were operating in Ethiopia as of November 2009.

UKTI maintains details of its interactions with individual companies. However, UKTI does not disclose information provided on an individual basis as it often is of a confidential nature and provided to us in connection with client's business interests. UKTI will not disclose any such information to any other person for any purpose without the prior written consent of the company.

Radio Frequencies

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that opportunities for market entry are maximised under the proposed combined auction by Ofcom of spectrum for wireless broadband usage. [321050]

Mr. Timms: The release of spectrum into the market by auction is handled by Ofcom, including auction design. However, the Direction to implement the Spectrum Modernisation Programme which we have recently consulted upon, requires Ofcom to implement temporary spectrum caps which are to limit the ability of operators to gain excessive amounts of spectrum below 1 GHz and below 3 GHz. These will help ensure a competitive and fair auction, giving opportunity for new entrants, should they wish to bid.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons he is providing direction to Ofcom to implement wireless radio spectrum modernisation. [321052]

Mr. Timms: To implement our spectrum modernisation programme as set out in the Digital Britain Report. Our objective is to enable the deployment of next generation mobile broadband services, which will deliver substantial benefits to business and consumers.

Science: Finance

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills from which areas of his Department's budget for science he expects to make savings. [320246]

Mr. Lammy: No decisions have been reached on the future size of the science budget. The Government will spend £6 billion on science and research by 2010/11, a doubling in real terms since 1997. The Government remain committed to the ring-fence and the ten-year Science and Innovation Investment Framework. We shall continue to prioritise funding to deliver a world-class research base, capable of addressing key challenges including environmental change, ageing and global security.

Students: Loans

Paul Holmes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in respect of how many student loan applications consideration was delayed in the period from September to December in each of the last five years. [317651]

Mr. Lammy: Data are not readily available on the number of applications where "consideration was delayed" in the last five years. It would incur disproportionate cost to obtain this information.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people of each age in each local authority area had a debt with the Student Loans Company on the latest date for which figures are available. [321699]

Mr. Lammy: The question cannot be answered as this would incur disproportionate cost.

Students: Personal Records

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many pieces of information *(a)* universities and *(b)* further education colleges are required to gather on individual students by the time of their enrolment. [321678]

Mr. Lammy: For universities, the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) agrees and reviews the standard requirements of the Student Record, to be completed on enrolment. HESA is a private company, established in 1993 to meet requirements for upiform and reliable statistics across the Higher Education system in the United Kingdom. Although not all fields need to be completed for every enrolment, the current set of fields comprising the Student Record can be accessed here:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/component/option.com_studrec/tasks.how_file/Itemid.233/mnl.08051/href.E^_^index.html/

For Further Education colleges, the Information Authority agrees and reviews the content of the Individualised Learner Record (ILR), to be completed on enrolment and used to allow the college to draw down the appropriate level of funding to support each learner. The Information Authority was established as an independent body in 2006, to set and regulate data and data collection standards for Further Education, and to reduce the data burden on Further Education colleges and training organisations in England.

Further Education provision is diverse, and the range of data collected varies accordingly. The ILR contains up to 45 data fields for each learner and up to 56 for each learning aim. The fields which will be filled in will vary, however, depending on the learner and the learning being undertaken. Under a reciprocal arrangement with the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and HESA, further fields are collected for the small proportion of learners studying higher education provision and/or funded by HEFCE. Further information on the ILR can be found here:

http://www.theia.org.uk/ilr

Students: Radicalism

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the number of students *(a)* suspended and *(b)* expelled from university as the result of extremist religious activity in each year since 2001. [321682]

Mr. Lammy: The Department does not request or hold this information.

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions officials of his Department have had with officials of the Department for Children, Schools and Families on required teaching qualifications for *(a)* schools and *(b)* further education colleges. [321674]

Kevin Brennan: BIS officials are working with the Department for Children School and Families (DCSF) to clarify the extent of equivalence and transferability of qualified teacher status between schools and further education teachers or lecturers.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burundi: Females

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has plans to provide assistance for programmes for the political and social empowerment of women in Burundi, with particular reference to the participation of women as candidates in elections. [321648]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided £1 million to a pooled fund, managed by the UN Development Programme, for the 2010 elections in Burundi. This includes funding for the mobilisation of women as participants in the electoral process, as electors, candidates and administrators. A voter registration exercise was successfully carried out in February 2010 resulting in 3.5 million people registering to vote, 52 per cent. of whom were women. The project also aims to support political parties to ensure the effective participation of women in the electoral process, in line with the requirement in Burundi's Constitution of at least 30 per cent. female representation in Parliament.

Civil Society Challenge Fund

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the Civil Society Challenge Fund operates across the UK. [322296]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Civil Society Challenge Fund is open to not-for-profit organisations based anywhere in the UK.

Civil Society Challenge Fund: Northern Ireland

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many organisations from Northern Ireland have received funding from the Civil Society Challenge Fund since its inception; and how many of these were women's organisations. [322297]

Mr. Michael Foster: Since its inception in 2000, the Civil Society Challenge Fund has funded two projects with Trocaire, based in Belfast.

In the most recent funding round (for funding from April 2010) we have agreed provisional support for a project with, Derry based, Children in Crossfire. Signing of the grant agreement is subject to negotiation of financial and other arrangements and the usual DFID approval procedures.

Neither Trocaire nor Children in Crossfire are women's organisations.

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many information seminars on the Civil Society Challenge Fund his Department has held in Northern Ireland since the inception of the Fund. [322298]

Mr. Michael Foster: Since the establishment of the Civil Society Challenge Fund in 2000 there have been no information seminars on this fund in Northern Ireland.

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on assisting developing countries dealing with the effects of climate change in each of the last five years. [321646]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) helps developing countries deal with the effects of climate change through a number of multilateral and bilateral channels. For example DFID has:

Invested £150 million in the Environmental Transformation Fund (ETF) over the past two years.

Provided £50 million to the Chars Livelihood Programme in Bangladesh to support livelihoods resilient to climate change.

Committed to invest £100 million in climate research over five years.

We are not currently able to disaggregate all of our spend on climate change. DFID is working with other donors, through the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, to agree how climate change spending should be reported. We expect to begin reporting against agreed requirements later this year.

Ethiopia: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department provided to Ethiopia *(a)* to each recipient and *(b)* through each distributing organisation in each of the last five years. [322316]

Mr. Thomas: Details of aid provided to Ethiopia are published annually in "Statistics on International Development", which is available at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Aid-Statistics/Statistics-on-International-Development-2009/

The amounts provided to each type of recipient are provided in the following table. The majority of aid received by the Government of Ethiopia is channelled through multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and United Nations.

£ million

		Of which:	
Financial year	*Total DFID bilateral aid to Ethiopia*	*Delivered to an NGO*	*Delivered to the Ethiopian Government*
2004-05	62.364	3.476	58.89
2005-06	62.558	2.288	60.27
2006-07	90.496	2.529	87.97
2007-08	139.519	2.69	136.83
2008-09	165.521	3.6	161.92

The amount of this aid distributed through bilateral and multilateral channels is as follows.

£ million

		Of which:
Financial year	*Total DFID bilateral aid to Ethiopia*	*Delivered through a multilateral*
2004-05	62.364	9.78
2005-06	62.558	14.73
2006-07	90.496	83.88

£ million

		Of which:
Financial year	*Total DFID bilateral aid to Ethiopia*	*Delivered through a multilateral*
2007-08	139.519	135.75
2008-09	165.521	159.99

Haiti: Autism

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has made an assessment of the autism needs of the Haitian population; and whether his Department or its international partners have plans to rebuild the autism clinic in Haiti. [321640]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: A post-disaster needs assessment is currently under way in Haiti. Only after the assessment has been completed will decisions be made, with the full participation of the Government of Haiti, on the reconstruction priorities for the country.

The UK allocated £20 million in humanitarian aid for the emergency response to the earthquake. We expect reconstruction work in Haiti to be led by the UN and funded through multilateral sources, to which the UK is already a significant contributor.

WaterAid: Finance

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department contributed to WaterAid in each of the last five years. [321645]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) expenditure through all UK civil society organisations can be found in our annual publication 'Statistics on International Development', which is available at

www.dfid.gov.uk

The relevant figures for WaterAid are reproduced in the following table.

Financial year	*Partnership Programme Agreement*	*Country and other DFID programmes*	*Total (£000)*
2004-05	1,160	859	2,019
2005-06	1,460	2,045	3,505
2006-07	1,460	2,766	4,226
2007-08	1,256	4,122	5,369
2008-09	1,290	6,164	7,454

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 16 March 2010

SCOTLAND

Future Jobs Fund

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 24 February 2010, *Official Report,* column 552W, on the Future Jobs Fund, which projects the Future Jobs Fund is supporting in Scotland, and how many jobs have been provided through each project. [322406]

Ann McKechin: By the end of the eighth bidding round announced on 15 March 2010, the Government had approved 58 Future Jobs Fund bids to create up to 10,328 jobs in Scotland.

Bidding organisation	*Number of jobs*
Aberdeen City Council	28
Aberdeen Works	32
Aberdeenshire Council	23
Angus Council	34
Angus Council	50
Apex Scotland	30
Argyll and Bute Council Employability Team	50
Argyll and Bute Council Employability Team	30
Argyll Training	35
Barnardo's Scotland	20
Big Issue Scotland	10
City of Edinburgh Council	80
City of Edinburgh Council	57
Clackmannanshire Alliance	77
Coalfield Regeneration Trust	30
Dumfries and Galloway Council	91
Dundee City Council	51
Dundee Partnership	158
East Ayrshire Council	483
East Ayrshire Council	155
East Dunbartonshire Council	60
East Lothian Council	26
Falkirk Council	90
Fife Council	238
Fife Council	122
Glasgow City Council	250
Glasgow City Council	300
Highland Council	203
Inverclyde Council	240
M. I. Technologies	30
Midlothian Council	45
Midlothian Council	108
Moray Council Community Partnership	15
North Ayrshire Council	180
North Lanarkshire Council	1,200
Perth and Kinross Community Planning Partnership	90
Project Scotland	153
Raploch Urban Regeneration Company	35
Real Work Skills Ltd.	10
Renfrewshire Council	203
Scottish Borders Council	51
Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations	330
Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations	1,464
Scottish Council for Voluntary Services	390
Scottish Forestry Commission	210
Scottish Premier League	432
Scottish Wildlife Trust	61
Scottish Wildlife Trusts	400
South Ayrshire Council	57
South Ayrshire Workforce Plus Forum	15
South Lanarkshire Council	1,200
Stirling Council Youth Services	31
The Bambury Regeneration Centre	60
Third Sector Hebrides	165
West Dunbartonshire Council	70
West Lothian Council	30
West Lothian Council	150
Workers' Educational Association	90
Total	10,328

Taxation

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the economic effects in England of the tax proposals set out in paragraphs 4.13 to 4.39 of "Scotland's Future in the United Kingdom", Cm 7738. [322282]

Ann McKechin: The tax proposals set out in the Government's White Paper "Scotland's Future in the United Kingdom" will deliver real financial accountability to the Scottish Parliament and, once fully implemented, mean that a substantial proportion of the Scottish budget will derive directly from taxes determined and raised in Scotland. At the same time, the proposals safeguard the economic and administrative efficiencies inherent to the unified tax system within the United Kingdom.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Floods: Gloucestershire

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Environment Agency have provided to (i) Tewkesbury council and (ii) Gloucestershire county council for flood prevention schemes since the flooding of July 2007; and if he will make a statement. [321053]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA provides grants to operating authorities in England to manage the risks of flooding and coastal erosion. DEFRA's grants to the Environment Agency to tackle flooding increased from £499.8 million in 2007-08 to £659 million in 2010-11.

The Environment Agency has provided Tewkesbury borough council with £75,000 for capital improvement works. Some £119,000 has been allocated to Tewkesbury borough council for property level flood protection and resilience measures.

DEFRA has allocated Gloucestershire county council £200,000 for surface water management.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Environment Agency have provided to (i) Tewkesbury council and (ii) Gloucestershire county council for repairs relating to flooding of July 2007; and if he will make a statement. [321054]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government made a comprehensive package of over £136 million available to support areas affected by the flooding of summer 2007.

This included around £19 million provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) through the Bellwin scheme. Flood-affected local authorities applied for help through the scheme, which provides financial assistance to local authorities dealing with emergencies. Exceptionally, the terms of the scheme were made more generous because of the circumstances of the 2007 floods.

Through the Bellwin scheme £2.8 million was provided to Gloucestershire county council and £350,000 to Tewkesbury borough council. In addition £950,000 was provided to the Gloucestershire police authority.

The other main elements of the £136 million package are:

Around £41 million from the Department for Transport for repairs to the local highway.

£30.6 million from CLG, through the Restoration Fund, that we have been able to release through a successful European Union Solidarity Fund bid.

£18.4 million from CLG for Flood Recovery Grant to support the recovery work of local authorities, and particularly their work with those in greatest and most immediate need. The latest £1 million released on 31 January was allocated to the nine local authorities with the highest number of households still displaced.

£13.5 million from the Department for Children, School and Families for schools and children's services affected by the floods. A total of 858 schools were damaged in the June floods and those in July.

Over £11 million from Regional Development Agencies for businesses affected in their regions.

Over £1.2 million from CLG for local authorities giving council tax discounts, so families do not face council tax bill for homes they could not live in.

£1 million which could be drawn on as contingency reserve by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) for use by Jobcentre Plus to support additional demand for Social Fund Community Care Grants. DWP paid Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans totalling £810,891 to people on qualifying benefits to meet the cost of replacing essential household items.

£1 million from the Department for Culture Media and Sport to support rural tourism in England through promoting rural destinations and visitor attractions. It will also be used to fund a targeted marketing campaign for the regions of England and businesses such as B and Bs, caravan parks and attractions.

The Environment Agency has not provided funding to either Tewkesbury borough council or Gloucestershire county council for repairs relating to the 2007 flooding.

Seals: Canada

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he last discussed the seal hunt in Canada with the Canadian Government. [322677]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Secretary of State has not held recent discussions with the Canadian Government on the seal hunt in Canada.

The Government's opposition to the annual Canadian seal hunt is well known and remains unchanged. We have lobbied since 2006 to promote EU-wide action and on 23 July 2008, the European Commission proposed an EU-wide ban on trade in seal products from a range of species where it cannot be proved that the seals were killed humanely.

Tree Planting

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage the Forestry Commission to assist in the acquisition and replanting of agricultural land with native species of trees. [321538]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Delivery Plan for our Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forest produced by the Forestry Commission and Natural England includes the objective to create new woodland in priority areas.

The English Woodland Grant Scheme administered by the Forestry Commission offers incentives to landowners to encourage them to plant trees. These grants are part of the Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13. Under the scheme rules it is not permissible to reimburse costs of land acquisition, but the grants do cover a proportion of the planting costs and the agricultural income foregone. The current target for new woodland creation is 2,200 hectares per year of which 2,000 hectares are expected to be on agricultural land.

In the 2009 Low Carbon Transition Plan we set out our intention to support a new drive to encourage private funding for woodland creation and options to achieve this are being explored by the Forestry Commission and DEFRA.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage the Forestry Commission to reduce the number of trees planted per acre for new growth. [321539]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We are not taking any steps to encourage the Forestry Commission or other landowners to reduce the number of trees planted per hectare and there is no reason to do so. The English Woodland Grant Scheme, administered by the Forestry Commission and which supports most new woodland creation, allows for trees to be planted at a range of densities depending on the purpose of the woodland. These include densities as low as 100 trees per hectare for 'special' broadleaves such as poplar, ranging through 1,600 trees per hectare for native woodlands and up to 2,250 trees per hectare for 'standard' woodlands.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 24 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 565W, on departmental internet, what the cost was of the website redesign; and what estimate he has made of the cost of the latest redesign. [321933]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The design costs for the redesign of the website in 2005 were £31,104.54.

In 2009-10 the Department for Culture, Media and Sport commissioned a digital agency to design and create five themed landing pages for its website. This work is essential to bring the current site up to date, by providing better access to content allowing more flexibility and the ability to pull in relevant social media feeds (which the current single homepage cannot support). The total cost for design was £8,383.75.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many designs for its *(a)* internal website and *(b)* intranet his Department has commissioned since 2005; and what the cost was of each such design. [321984]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We have not commissioned any designs for the intranet since 2005.

Greater Manchester

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to the Manchester, Gorton constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997. [322132]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department's aim is to improve the quality of life for everyone through cultural and sporting activities, to support the pursuit of excellence and to champion the tourism, creative and leisure industries.

The impact of bodies and policies of my Department on the Manchester, Gorton constituency since 1997 include:

£316,615 given from Arts Council England to organisations based in Gorton in 2008-09 through the Grants for the Arts programme.

Digital Switchover has been completed in the Gorton region, and by 2012, 98.5 per cent. of households nationwide will be able to receive digital TV—the same number that can currently receive analogue.

£1,416,994 of Exchequer investment to the Gorton constituency provided through Sport England since 2002.

Over £20 million of national lottery grants made to applications from the constituency since 1995.

The Big Lottery Fund and its predecessor bodies have awarded £5,694,522 to projects located in the constituency since the 1996/97 financial year. This includes an award made in 2008-09 of £446,140 for an active project to redevelop Levenshulme United Reformed Church into a multi-purpose community centre.

£117,483 of English Heritage grant offers to the Gorton constituency in 2008-09.

The Manchester, Gorton constituency has also benefitted from other policies and spending whose impact cannot be broken down by constituency. This includes:

£4 billion of Exchequer funding spent on culture

More than £5.5 billion invested in sport by the Government and the national lottery since 1997.

Over 2 million free swims taken in the north-west region since the Free Swimming programme was introduced.

A 68 per cent. increase in national museum visits from 1998-99 to 2008-09—10 per cent. of which were by adults from lower socioeconomic groups.

£416.6 million in grants allocated by English Heritage since 1997.

48 per cent. of buildings on the original 1999 Buildings at Risk Register having their future secured.

90 per cent. of all pupils taking part in at least two hours of high quality PE or sport per week in 2008 from an estimated 25 per cent. in 2003-04—exceeding our target.

Local Government: Statistics

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 341W, on local government finance, what performance data local authorities regularly submit on libraries and museums to the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. [319795]

Margaret Hodge: There is no requirement for local authorities to submit performance data on libraries and museums to the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. The MLA:

1. Part-fund the collection of local authority data relating to National Indicator Set 9 and 10 (in order to enable libraries and museums to manage their own performance better). Local authority National Indicator Sets are required by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

2. Collects information (on Cultural Strategies, Business Plans, accounts and collecting policies) from all local authorities when they apply to become Accredited museums or Designated collections. The MLA also collect data returns from local authorities with Renaissance funded museums. This does not form part of the wider local authority performance framework.

3. Advises CIPFA on their annual public library statistics on expenditure, income, staffing and service provision, for all library authorities in England.

Summertime

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the tourism industry on the merits of introducing British Summer Time and Double British Summer Time. [322497]

Margaret Hodge: The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and I have held a number of recent discussions with the British Association of Leisure Parks, Piers, and Attractions (BALPPA) and other tourism industry stakeholders about the potential benefits to DCMS sectors, including tourism and sport, of making changes to British Summer Time (BST).

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is the lead policy Department on BST, and the DCMS have raised these issues with BIS for their consideration.

Tourism: Poole

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding has been allocated to the promotion of tourism *(a)* in Poole and *(b)* nationally in each year since 1997. [320486]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested on funding to promote tourism in Poole is not held centrally. Responsibility for tourism in the regions was taken over by the regional development agencies (RDAs) in 2003.

I have therefore asked the chief executive of the South West regional development agency to write to the hon. Member for Poole directly. Copies of the response will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The overall level of public sector investment in tourism from local, regional and national sources will exceed £2 billion in the current spending review period (2008-09 to 2010-11).

Nationally, funding to promote tourism is directed through VisitBritain and VisitEngland.

VisitBritain's Grant in Aid since 1997 (including VisitBritain's predecessor bodies —the British Tourist Authority and the English Tourism Council—up to 2002-03) is outlined in the following table:

	£ million
1997-98	44.7
1998-99	44.7
1999-2000	47.2
2000-01	47
2001-02	64.1
2002-03	68
2003-04	51.3
2004-05	48.4
2005-06	48.9
2006-07	49.9
2007-08	50.7
2008-09	49.9

The rise in spending between 2001 and 2003 represents the additional funding invested by the Government and the industry to support tourism in response to specific national and international events that occurred in and immediately preceding this period (foot and mouth, 9/11 and SARS).

WALES

Business: Montgomeryshire

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many businesses were registered in Montgomeryshire in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [322012]

Mr. Hain: Montgomeryshire has consistently had the second highest number of VAT registered businesses in Wales after Brecon and Radnorshire.

The number of enterprises registered for VAT at the start of each year in Montgomeryshire is as follows:

	Number
2001	4,030
2002	4,035
2003	4,035
2004	4,060
2005	4,050
2006	4,080
2007	4,095
2008	4,085

Figures for 2009 are not available at this time.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [322084]

Mr. Hain: One mobile telephone was recorded as stolen. The replacement cost approximately £40.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will assess the merits of introducing a concessionary bus travel scheme for persons aged *(a)* up to 15 years old and *(b)* between 16 and 19 years old; and if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of introducing such a scheme in (i) England, (ii) Gloucestershire and (iii) Stroud constituency. [322051]

Mr. Khan: The Government have no plans at present to introduce a statutory bus concession for young people. Any extensions to the scope of the current statutory minimum would bring with them associated costs and would require careful consideration of the full impacts, including: the effect on limited spare bus capacity; the potential for distortion of the commercial bus market; and the impact on walking and cycling initiatives.

Local authorities are best placed to decide on the most appropriate discretionary concessions in their areas, offering far more flexibility than would be the case with a blanket statutory concession.

The Department for Transport recently commissioned some research on the cost and impact of options for extending the current statutory minimum concessionary travel scheme. Based on this research, the Department estimates that it would cost:

(a) around an extra £1.2 billion per annum to extend the statutory minimum concession to enable 5 to 16-year-olds to travel anytime for free on buses England-wide.

(b) around an extra £740 million per annum to extend the statutory minimum concession to enable 14 to 19-year-olds in full-time education to travel anytime for free on buses England-wide.

The Department does not have any estimates for specific counties or constituencies.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1363W, on departmental internet, what the cost was of the website redesign. [321924]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport last commissioned a new design for its corporate website in 2005:

www.dft.gov.uk

The work to develop a new information architecture and associated usability testing cost £39,500 (net). The subsequent work to develop a new visual design around the revised information architecture cost £55,825 (net).

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many designs for its *(a)* internal website and *(b)* intranet his Department has commissioned since 2005; and what the cost was of each such design. [321979]

Chris Mole: Since 2005 the Department has commissioned one new design for its intranet at a cost of £10,210 (ex VAT). The design work was part of a larger technical upgrade.

East Coast Railway Line

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will make an assessment of the merits of increasing capacity for *(a)* passengers and *(b)* freight on the East Coast Main Line, with particular reference to (i) the lengthening of station platforms and (ii) the raising of freight loading gauges. [322242]

Chris Mole: The assessment of the merits of increasing capacity on the East Coast Main Line is a matter for Network Rail. The East Coast Main Line Route Utilisation Study was published by Network Rail in February 2008 and made recommendations for increasing the route's capacity for both passenger and freight services. This can be found on Network Rail's website at:

www.networkrail.co.uk

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the cost to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has been of administering the free prize draw for motorists renewing their vehicle tax online or by telephone to date. [322390]

Paul Clark: The administrative costs associated with the free prize draw for motorists renewing their vehicle tax online or by telephone are as follows:

	£
June 2008 to March 2009	13,697.69
April 2009 to March 2010	11,332.00

National Bullying Helpline

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what contacts the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has had with the National Bullying Helpline since 2004; and whether the agency has made any payments to *(a)* the National Bullying Helpline and *(b)* HR and Diversity Management Limited in that period. [320131]

Paul Clark: The Civil Service has a zero tolerance policy on bullying and harassment.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has had no contact with the National Bullying Helpline since 2004.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has made no payments to the National Bullying Helpline or HR and Diversity Management Limited in that period.

Railways: Chesham

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects construction work on the High Speed Two route in Chesham and Amersham constituency to *(a)* commence and *(b)* be completed. [322673]

Chris Mole: As with any major infrastructure project, there will need to be extensive and detailed consultation, particularly with local communities affected. We will consult on the recommended route this autumn before the finalisation of Government policy and, if the decision is taken to proceed, will introduce a hybrid Bill following further detailed work.

Construction on the line would not begin until after the completion of Crossrail from 2017, with services on a London to Birmingham line commencing from 2026 at the earliest. Start and finish of works in specific locations would be subject to detailed work by HS2 Ltd. following decisions made after the autumn consultation.

Thameslink Railway Line: Rolling Stock

Mr. Brady: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he expects the electric multiple unit trains cascaded from Thameslink stock for services in the North West to be in service by March 2014. [322449]

Chris Mole: The cascade of existing trains operating Thameslink services is made possible by the procurement of new vehicles through the Thameslink Programme. The commercial negotiations on the procurement of the new vehicles are ongoing and until these are finalised, it will not be possible to confirm the timing of the resulting cascades.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

BAE Systems: Fraud

David Howarth: To ask the Solicitor-General (1) what the total cost to the Serious Fraud Office was of the recently-settled case against BAE Systems; [318575]

(2) what estimate she has made of the total cost to the Serious Fraud Office of its investigations into BAE Systems to date. [318576]

The Solicitor-General: The SFO has not yet assessed the costs involved since proceedings have not concluded.

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Solicitor-General how many staff in the Law Officers' Departments have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years. [316450]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is as follows:

Crown Prosecution Service and Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office

The number of staff who have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years is 131.

The Serious Fraud Office

In the last 12 months 19 staff had five or more short-term absences. The most recent available data before this (2006-07) can be found at the following link:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/Assets/Sickness_Absence_2006to2007_tcm6-3302.pdf

Treasury Solicitors, Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Inspection Services

Over the three years 2007-09 there have been 27 people who meet the criteria above. This represents less than 3 per cent. of the total workforce.

The National Fraud Authority

The NFA was launched in 2008-09 and no members of staff are recorded as having had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days during this period.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Bearwood Corporate Services

Chris Huhne: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission from which *(a)* legal firms, *(b)* Queen's counsel and *(c)* other sources the Electoral Commission sought advice in connection with its investigation into Bearwood Corporate Services; and how much was paid for such advice in each case. [322506]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that in addition to legal advice from its in-house Legal Counsel, it also obtained legal advice from Queens counsel, Michael Beloff QC and Andrew Mitchell QC; and from junior barristers, Jane Collier and Sarah Palin. Payments to Queen's counsel amounted to £61,000 and payments to junior counsel amounted to £20,000.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Nurseries

Mr. Burns: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the oral answer of 11 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 428-30, on a day nursery, whether the Chairman of the House of Commons Commission decided that the proposals for a day nursery at Bellamy's would not be placed before the Finance and Services Committee. [322446]

Nick Harvey: The Commission took the decision in principle on the setting up of a nursery facility at 1 Parliament street on 14 December 2009 with a view to making the facility available in the new Parliament. In view of the time constraint for its implementation, the Commission decided on this occasion not to refer the matter to the Finance and Services Committee.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [322081]

Paul Goggins: During the 12-month period from March 2009 to February 2010 the Northern Ireland Office (NIO), including its arm's length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and NDPBs, recorded 12 floppy disks as being lost in transit between Belfast and London. They did not contain any personal or classified information. As the disks were not replaced there was no cost of replacement to the Department.

No items of departmental property were reported as stolen during this period.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many single living accommodation units for service personnel in Scotland are in each standard for condition. [322039]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 12 March 2010]*: Single Living Accommodation (SLA) is not assessed for its Standard for Condition, but graded according to its condition and 'scale', which includes things like the amount of storage and size.

As at October 2009, the latest date for which figures are available, SLA bed-spaces in Scotland were at the following Grade.

Grade	*SLA bed-spaces*
1	3,395
2	1,104
3	2,188
4	1,078

Armed Forces: Orthopaedics

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have had limbs amputated in the last six months. [322518]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 410W, to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey).

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will guarantee the provision of funding at current levels for the Academies programme in the next spending round. [322492]

Mr. Coaker: The pre-Budget report announced a real-terms increase of 0.7 per cent. for DCSF frontline services including schools for 2011-12 and 2012-13. The remaining DCSF budgets for this period will be finalised in the spending review later this year. Open academies will receive funding increases in line with those for maintained schools and the 0.7 per cent. real terms increase already announced.

Children: Social Services

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how long each local authority's Director of Children's Services has been in post. [321084]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not collect this information.

Departmental Advertising

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible spent on advertising in 2009. [317070]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not been possible to identify the Department's spend on advertising in 2009 without incurring disproportionate cost. However, the Department's spend on advertising in the 2008-09 financial year was £13,891,106.

Advertising expenditure by non-departmental public bodies and executive agencies in 2009 cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its agencies spent on font licensing in the last three years. [315283]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Since 2007 the Department of Children, Schools and Families has not directly purchased any font licences for related publications work that has been specifically billed.

Departmental Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [320411]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: No DCSF Ministers have received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months.

With regard to civil servants, the Department does not collect this information centrally in the form requested. Information on external training courses attended by employees in the last 12 months and the cost of each course is held locally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and which telephone helplines received funding from his Department in 2009; [318378]

(2) how many telephone calls were *(a)* received and *(b)* answered by each of the helplines funded by his Department in each month since their commencement; [318379]

(3) how much funding each of the helplines funded by his Department receives each month. [318380]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which companies were contracted by his Department and its predecessor for the provision of temporary staff in each of the last three years; how many temporary staff were employed by his Department in each such year; and what the monetary value was of contracts with each such company in each such year. [317998]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department was created on 28 June 2007. The Department has used three agencies for the provision of its temporary staff (admin and clerical)—Adecco, Reed Employment and Hays Office Support. The contract with Adecco expired on 31 August 2007, when new contracts were established with Reed and Hays.

The number of temporary staff employed by the Department is as follows:

	Number
July to December 2007	98
January to December 2008	207
January to December 2009	130

We are unable to provide the monetary value of the contracts as this is commercial in confidence.

For a small number of specialist temporary staff and interim managers the Department has used other agencies but information on this could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1087-8W, on departmental written questions, by what mechanism his Department monitors its responses to parliamentary questions; what its target time is for responses; and how its performance against that target is measured. [318385]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department has recently implemented a new IT system for monitoring its responses to parliamentary questions. This Department aims to ensure that Members receive a substantive response to their named day question on the date specified, and endeavours to answer ordinary written questions within a working week of being tabled. The new system will enable the Department's performance to be measured against these targets.

Family Proceedings

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects on the welfare of children of the provisions in the Children, Schools and Families Bill on family court proceedings. [312932]

Dawn Primarolo: Protecting the welfare of children is our paramount concern. In developing the proposals for the Bill, officials met and sought the views of various stakeholders including 11 Million, the Association of Directors of Children's Services and the Association of Lawyers for Children. My hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, East (Bridget Prentice) also met the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service/National Youth Advocacy Service Young People's Board to seek their views on proposals in the Bill.

The proposals in the Bill are carefully drafted in response to this stakeholder feedback to ensure that children's welfare is protected and sensitive personal information remains confidential. In addition, the measures in the Bill propose to strengthen the current position and give indefinite anonymity to children involved in family proceedings.

The current proposals before Parliament make clear that it is only possible to alter the treatment of sensitive personal information once an independent review of the operation of the provisions has been carried out, including their impact on the welfare of children.

National Youth Community Service

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the Prime Minister's speech at Britain's Everyday Heroes Book Launch of 24 July 2007, what progress has been made on the launch of the National Youth Community Service for Britain since July 2007. [318354]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The 44-week volunteering programme vTalent Year was launched in January 2009 involving young people aged 16 to 25 volunteering for approximately 30 hours per week. The first cohort of 358 young people is working across 32 local authority children and young people's services and the second cohort will start in March 2010.

Volunteers are undertaking a range of placements from nurseries, children and youth centres to youth crime prevention, asylum seekers and substance misuse teams. Nearly 60 per cent. of the volunteers were not in education, employment or training prior to starting the programme.

In April 2009 the Prime Minister alongside Ministers for the Cabinet Office and the Department for Children, Schools and Families also announced a package of measures to support our ambition that, in time, all young people should give at least 50 hours of their time between the ages of 14 and 19 to serve their communities.

The measures include:

incorporating community action into learning programmes for 20,000 16 to 18-year-olds as part of Entry to Employment programmes in 2009/10 and again as part of Foundation Learning in 2010/11;

the creation of five intensive local authority pilots to test approaches to achieving near-universal participation among 14 to 16-year-olds;

new ways of recognising participation in community action; and

more support for schools to engage their pupils in this activity, to complement existing local support teams for 16 to 25-year-olds.

Office for Standards in Education: Children's Services and Skills

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received on the system of inspection operated by Ofsted. [321867]

Mr. Coaker: As the Secretary of State stated in Oral Questions on 25 January 2010, stakeholders are in regular contact with Ministers and the Department about a wide range of matters, including Ofsted jinspections.

Schools

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate his Department has made of the cost of providing one-to-one or small group tuition to every child not reaching the expected level at key stage 1 and 2 in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [317823]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Funding for the one-to-one tuition programme was announced as part of the most recent comprehensive spending review (CSR) settlement. There is a total of £468 million funding over the CSR period, including £138 million to support 3.5 per cent. of the key stage 2, key stage 3 (and in National Challenge schools key stage 4) cohort in each of English and maths in 2009-10; and £315 million to support 300,000 pupils in English and 300,000 children in mathematics in 2010-11.

In 2009-10, pupils who enter key stage 2 behind expectations and/or who are not on course to make two levels of progress will be eligible for one-to-one tuition, but there is no entitlement to this support. Subject to the will of Parliament, from September 2010 one-to-one tuition will be guaranteed for all children who enter key stage 2 behind national expectations and are not on course to make two levels of progress over the course of the key stage. The funding for 2010-11 is sufficient to cover this guarantee.

The Every Child Counts and Every Child a Reader programmes in key stage 1 and the Every Child a Writer programme at key stage 2 comprise of both one-to-one tuition and small group work. Taken together, these programmes will have £52.7 million funding in 2009-10, and £94.6 million funding in 2010-11.

Schools received a personalisation budget of £1.6 billion for the three-year period of this CSR, and this funding can be used to provide further small group support.

No decisions on funding for the one-to-one tuition programme or the Every Child programmes have been taken for 2011-12.

Schools: Fires

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the number of fires reported in schools in each year since 2005; [318629]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the annual cost to the public purse of fires in schools. [318631]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 26 February 2010]:* The latest confirmed figures we have from the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) for England and Wales cover the period 2000 to 2007, and are shown in the following tables.

	Number of fires	*Total costs (£ million)*	*Percentage arson*
2000	1,275	45	63
2001	1,529	67	58
2002	1,332	67	55
2003	1,232	n/a	61
2004	1,229	~52	56
2005	1,102	n/a	44
2006	1,075	n/a	41
2007	825	n/a	42

n/a = not available

	Total	*Accidental*	*Deliberate*
2003	1,232	478	753
2004	1,229	551	677
2005	1,102	615	487
2006	1,075	639	436
2007	825	480	345

Note:
Excluding incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action in 2003 Ref: 2008066(2003-2007) .sas 12OCT09
Source:
CLG

The costs are rounded to the nearest £1 million and are derived from the CLG's cost of Fire Estimates. They cover property damage and the costs of the fire and rescue services attending the fires. They do not include costs of any fires not attended by the Fire and Rescue Services.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to reduce the *(a)* administrative burden on teachers and *(b)* number of national performance standards for schools in the last 12 months. [321718]

Mr. Coaker: The Department works closely with the Implementation Review Unit (IRU), an independent group of front-line practitioners, to ensure that the bureaucratic and work load implications of both new and existing policies are kept under review, and to a minimum. Most recently, the IRU have been remitted to conduct a review of obstacles to effective delivery of government policies which is due to report late spring. We have also made a number of commitments to the Merits Committee and are managing better the impact of new policies on schools.

In answer to the second part of the question, since the removal of the key stage 3 national tests the national performance standards for schools have remained constant in the last 12 months.

Secondary Education: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average staff to pupil ratio is in secondary schools in *(a)* North East Hertfordshire and *(b)* England. [321673]

Mr. Coaker: The following table provides the pupil:adult ratios for local authority maintained secondary schools in North-East Hertfordshire constituency and England, January 2009.

Within school pupil:adult ratio (PAR)[1] in local authority maintained secondary schools[2], year: January 2009, coverage: North-East Hertfordshire constituency and England

	Secondary
England	10.7
North-East Hertfordshire	11.8

[1] The within school PAR is calculated by dividing the total full-time equivalent (FTE) number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of all teachers and support staff employed in schools, excluding administrative and clerical staff.
[2] Excludes city technology colleges and academies.
Source:
School Census

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* median and *(b)* mean salary in (i) nominal and (ii) real terms was of a teacher in a maintained school in each region in each year since 1997. [318692]

Mr. Coaker: The following tables provide the mean and median salary of teachers in service in local authority maintained schools in cash terms and real terms broken down by each Government office region in England and for Wales, March 1997 to 2008.

Mean and median salary of full-time regular teachers[1] in local authority maintained schools[2] in cash terms and real terms[3] broken down by each Government office region, Years: March 1997 to March 2008, Coverage: England and Wales

£

	1997				*1998*				*1999*			
	Mean		*Median*		*Mean*		*Median*		*Mean*		*Median*	
Government office region	*Cash terms*	*Real terms*	*Cash terms*	*Real terms*	*Cash terms*	*Real terms*	*Cash terms*	*Real terms*	*Cash terms*	*Real terms*	*Cash terms*	*Real terms*
North East	22,900	29,300	22,200	28,900	23,100	29,300	22,900	29,100	24,000	29,800	23,800	29,600
North West	22,600	29,500	22,200	28,900	23,300	29,500	22,900	29,100	24,200	30,000	23,800	29,600
Yorkshire and the Humber	22,700	29,600	22,200	28,900	23,300	29,600	22,900	29,100	24,100	30,000	23,800	29,600
East Midlands	22,800	29,700	22,200	28,900	23,500	29,800	22,900	29,100	24,300	30,200	23,800	29,600
West Midlands	22,700	29,500	22,200	28,900	23,300	29,600	22,900	29,100	24,200	30,100	23,800	29,600
East of England	22,800	29,700	22,200	28,900	23,400	29,800	22,900	29,100	24,300	30,200	23,800	29,600
London	24,500	31,900	24,800	32,400	25,200	31,900	25,000	31,800	26,200	32,600	26,000	32,300
South East	22,700	29,500	22,200	28,900	23,300	29,600	22,900	29,100	24,200	30,000	23,800	29,600
South West	22,700	29,600	22,200	28,900	23,300	29,600	22,900	29,100	24,200	30,100	23,800	29,600
Wales	22,600	29,500	22,200	28,900	23,200	29,500	22,900	29,100	24,100	29,900	23,800	29,600
England and Wales	22,900	29,800	22,200	29,000	23,500	29,900	22,900	29,100	24,400	30,400	23,800	29,600

£

	2000				*2001*				*2002*			
	Mean		*Median*		*Mean*		*Median*		*Mean*		*Median*	
Government office region	*Cash terms*	*Real terms*	*Cash terms*	*Real terms*	*Cash terms*	*Real terms*	*Cash terms*	*Real terms*	*Cash terms*	*Real terms*	*Cash terms*	*Real terms*
North East	25,000	30,400	24,600	30,000	26,900	32,300	27,000	32,400	28,200	33,200	28,500	33,500
North West	25,200	30,700	24,600	30,000	27,100	32,600	27,400	33,000	28,400	33,400	28,500	33,500
Yorkshire and the Humber	25,100	30,600	24,600	30,000	27,000	32,500	27,000	32,400	28,400	33,400	28,500	33,500
East Midlands	25,200	30,700	24,600	30,000	27,100	32,600	27,300	32,900	28,300	33,300	28,500	33,500
West Midlands	25,100	30,700	24,600	30,000	27,000	32,500	27,000	32,400	28,300	33,400	28,500	33,500
East of England	25,200	30,800	24,600	30,000	27,100	32,600	27,000	32,400	28,600	33,700	28,500	33,500
London	27,200	33,200	26,900	32,800	29,100	35,000	28,700	34,600	31,400	37,000	31,000	36,400
South East	25,100	30,600	24,600	30,000	26,800	32,300	26,600	32,000	28,200	33,200	28,000	32,900
South West	25,100	30,600	24,600	30,000	26,900	32,400	27,400	33,000	28,100	33,100	28,500	33,500
Wales	25,100	30,600	24,600	30,000	27,100	32,600	27,400	33,000	28,400	33,400	28,500	33,500
England and Wales	25,400	31,000	24,600	30,000	27,200	32,800	27,400	33,000	28,700	33,800	28,500	33,500

£

	2003				*2004*				*2005*			
	Mean		*Median*		*Mean*		*Median*		*Mean*		*Median*	
Government office region	*Cash terms*	*Real terms*	*Cash terms*	*Real terms*	*Cash terms*	*Real terms*	*Cash terms*	*Real terms*	*Cash terms*	*Real terms*	*Cash terms*	*Real terms*
North East	29,800	34,000	29,500	33,600	31,200	34,600	31,400	34,800	32,400	35,000	32,100	34,700
North West	30,100	34,300	30,500	34,800	31,300	34,800	31,400	34,800	32,500	35,100	32,300	34,900
Yorkshire and the Humber	30,100	34,300	30,100	34,300	31,300	34,700	31,400	34,800	32,400	34,900	32,100	34,700
East Midlands	30,100	34,400	30,500	34,800	31,100	34,500	31,400	34,800	32,100	34,600	32,100	34,700
West Midlands	30,200	34,400	30,500	34,800	31,300	34,700	31,400	34,800	32,400	35,000	32,700	35,300

£

Government office region	2003				2004				2005			
	Mean		Median		Mean		Median		Mean		Median	
	Cash terms	Real terms	Cash terms	Real terms	Cash terms	Real terms	Cash terms	Real terms	Cash terms	Real terms	Cash terms	Real terms
East of England	30,400	34,700	30,500	34,800	31,500	34,900	31,400	34,800	32,600	35,200	32,200	34,700
London	33,300	37,900	32,800	37,400	35,300	39,100	34,400	38,100	36,300	39,200	35,500	38,400
South East	30,000	34,200	29,500	33,600	31,200	34,600	31,100	34,500	32,300	34,900	32,100	34,700
South West	29,800	34,000	29,500	33,600	31,000	34,300	31,400	34,800	32,000	34,600	32,100	34,700
Wales	30,100	34,400	30,500	34,800	31,300	34,700	31,400	34,800	32,700	35,300	32,800	35,400
England and Wales	30,500	34,700	30,500	34,800	31,700	35,200	31,400	34,800	32,900	35,500	32,700	35,300

£

Government office region	2006				2007[3,4]				2008[4]			
	Mean		Median		Mean		Median		Mean		Median	
	Cash terms	Real terms	Cash terms	Real terms	Cash terms	Real terms	Cash terms	Real terms	Cash terms	Real terms	Cash terms	Real terms
North East	33,500	35,400	33,100	35,100	34,700	35,700	34,600	35,600	35,600	35,600	35,400	35,400
North West	33,600	35,600	33,200	35,200	34,700	35,700	33,900	34,900	35,600	35,600	35,400	35,400
Yorkshire and the Humber	33,300	35,300	33,100	35,100	34,400	35,400	33900	34,900	35,200	35,200	34,300	34,300
East Midlands	33,200	35,200	33,100	35,100	34,200	35,200	33,400	34,400	35,100	35,100	34,300	34,300
West Midlands	33,300	35,300	33,100	35,100	34,400	35,400	34,400	35,400	35,500	35,500	35,300	35,300
East of England	33,600	35,600	33,100	35,100	34,500	35,500	33,900	34,900	35,400	35,400	34,900	34,900
London	37,500	39,700	36,300	38,500	38,600	39,700	37,400	38,500	39,700	39,700	38,500	38,500
South East	33,300	35,300	32,900	34,800	34,300	35,300	33,500	34,400	35,100	35,100	34,300	34,300
South West	33,200	35,200	33,100	35,100	34,300	35,300	33,900	34,900	35,200	35,200	34,300	34,300
Wales	33,700	35,700	33,700	35,700	34,700	35,700	34,400	35,400	35,700	35,700	35,200	35,200
England and Wales	33,900	35,900	33,500	35,500	35,000	36,000	34,400	35,400	35,900	35,900	35,400	35,400

[1] Teachers of all grades including school leadership.

[2] Excludes CTCs and academies

[3] Real terms figures calculated at 2007-08 prices using 4 January 2010 GDP deflators.

[4] Provisional.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest £100

Source:

Database of Teacher Records

Teachers: Science

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of schools which were assessed as *(a)* inadequate, *(b)* satisfactory and *(c)* outstanding by Ofsted in each of the last five years do not have any teachers with degree level qualifications in (i) physics, (ii) chemistry, (iii) biology and (iv) another science subject. [321824]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not available centrally.

Teachers: Standards

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his assessment is of the effectiveness of the system for the monitoring and appraisal of teacher performance. [322300]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 15 March 2010]:* Revised regulations and guidance on performance management for teachers and head teachers in England were published in October 2006 and came into force from 1 September 2007. The new arrangements provide for more transparent and consistent assessments of teacher performance, and provide a framework for planning continuing professional development and other support teachers need to do their jobs effectively and improve their professional practice.

The first performance management plans for teachers were completed by 31 October 2007 and for head teachers by 31 December 2007 so it is still early days, but evidence we have indicates schools are complying with the new arrangements. We are embarking on a specific piece of research which will be conducted by National Foundation for Educational Research to review, amongst other things, how performance management arrangements are working.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Overseas Aid

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much emergency funding his Department is providing to *(a)* Niger and *(b)* Chad to alleviate the current food shortages. [322006]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: On 4 March the Department for International Development (DFID) announced a £15 million package of assistance for Niger and Chad. A press release giving full details is available on the DFID website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/Press-releases/

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department has contributed to *(a)* Niger and *(b)* Chad (i) in each sector and (ii) via each implementing partner in each of the last three years. [322010]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The amount of bilateral aid delivered by the Department for International Development (DFID), in each sector, in Niger and Chad, is available on the DFID website, at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Aid-Statistics/Statistics-on-International-Development-2009/

Information on implementing partners is not held centrally and cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much funding the UK's partner bilateral and multilateral agencies plan to contribute to the West Africa Humanitarian Response Fund; [322007]

(2) how the West Africa Humanitarian Response Fund will be administered; [322008]

(3) how much funding his Department plans to allocate to each partner non-governmental organisation of the West Africa Humanitarian Response Fund. [322009]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Details of the West Africa Humanitarian Response Fund are published on the Department for International Development's (DFID's) project database, which can be accessed at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/

Democratic Republic of Congo: Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received on the steps taken by the Democratic Republic of Congo towards validation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative; and if he will make it his policy to support the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo in its efforts to *(a)* achieve validation and *(b)* ensure effective implementation of these initiatives. [320948]

Mr. Thomas: The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is making good progress towards validation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). The formal validation process is underway and the Government of the DRC expect to meet the outstanding benchmarks for validation by June 2010.

The Department for International Development's (DFID's) staff in Kinshasa are involved in regular dialogue with the Government of the DRC and the international community to promote progress with EITI. DFID is currently preparing a joint mining sector reform project with the World Bank, which will provide long-term support to EITI implementation in the DRC.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 877W, on departmental internet, what the cost was of the website redesign. [321928]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 806W, on departmental internet.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many designs for its *(a)* internal website and *(b)* intranet his Department has commissioned since 2005; and what the cost was of each such design. [321985]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has commissioned one intranet (internal website) design since 2005 at a cost of £1,850. This redesign was necessary to accompany an upgrade of the content management system.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [322079]

Mr. Michael Foster: Items recorded lost or stolen from the Department for International Development (DFID) during the financial year 2008-09 and the estimated cost of replacing those items are provided in the following table.

Lost or stolen item	*Number*	*Cost (£)*
Stolen satellite phone and calls	1	766.66
Stolen camera	1	160
Stolen office passes	2	2.30 plus VAT each
Stolen computer bag	1	Unknown
Laptops	3	Approximately 800 each

Ethiopia: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information his Department holds on the operations of British companies in Ethiopia; and if he will make it his policy to seek to ensure that the operation in Ethiopia of British enterprises which are wholly commercial does not disadvantage the operation of organisations in receipt of assistance from his Department. [322664]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not hold specific information on the operations of British companies in Ethiopia, though our office in Addis Ababa has periodic contact with particular companies on matters such as private sector development in Ethiopia.

DFID does not monitor the activities of British companies in Ethiopia or elsewhere overseas. The Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) leads on the operations of British companies overseas. Where issues arise in relation to the operations of companies overseas, the UK position is to encourage companies to observe national laws and standards.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Convictions

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions for being drunk and disorderly there were in Milton Keynes in each year since 1997. [315369]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of persons found guilty at all courts for being drunk and disorderly within the Thames Valley area in England and Wales from 1997 to 2008 can be viewed in the following table.

A penalty notice for disorder (PND) may also be issued for being drunk and disorderly. The number of PNDs issued for being drunk and disorderly from 2004 to 2008 can be viewed in the attached table. PNDs were introduced to all police force areas in 2004.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned to be published in the autumn 2010.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts and penalty notice for disorder (PNDs) issued for being drunk and disorderly related offences within Thames Valley area from 1997 to 2008[1, 2, 3]

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*200*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Found guilty	1045	1214	1097	911	821	772	853	700	265	253	227	204
Penalty notice for disorder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	403	332	228	363	362

[1] Data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Being found drunk in a highway or other public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises. Licensing Act 1872 Sec 12.
Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour. Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec.91.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Court proceedings data held by CJEA—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice—Our Ref: IOS 142-10

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take in the next six months to protect the Jewish community from anti-Semitic attacks; and if he will make a statement. [321840]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government take attacks on the Jewish community very seriously and provide a co-ordinated and continual response.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) National Community Tension Team (NCTT) carries out community impact assessments and identifies particular Jewish communities for reassurance activity. The NCTT also coordinates a national operation to ensure security and reassure Jewish communities during High Holy Days.

The Community Safety Trust (CST) was a recipient of funding from the 2009-10 Hate Crime section of the Victims Fund to allow them to improve both their reporting of anti-Semitic incidents and the support provided to victims. In addition, in London, the Metropolitan Police's Operation Rainbow Team, the uniformed policing response to counter-terrorism, has been working with the CST on the security of Jewish buildings.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of antisocial behaviour were reported to the police in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since 1997. [321854]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 11 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 446W.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued by courts in York since the introduction of such orders; and how many people who were issued with such orders were proceeded against for breaching them. [322094]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) became available from 1 April 1999. Between 1 April 1999 and 31 December 2007 (latest currently available) a total of 147 ASBOs were issued at all courts in the North Yorkshire Criminal Justice System (CJS) area.

Data collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on ASBO breaches held on the Court Proceedings Database only count those occasions where the breach was proven in court to have occurred and are available for ASBOs issued from 1 June 2000. The number of ASBOs issued at all courts in the North Yorkshire CJS area subsequently proven in court to have been breached at least once between 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2007 (latest currently available) is 81.

Data on ASBOs issued and breached collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice are not compiled below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

Crime Prevention: Small Businesses

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to encourage local authorities to design security systems and ensure safe environments for small retailers and traders. [321544]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended) requires all local authorities to exercise their functions with due regard to their likely effect on crime and disorder. The prevention of crime and the enhancement of community safety, including that of small retailers and traders, are therefore matters that a local planning authority should consider when exercising its functions under the Town and Country Planning legislation. All police forces have specialist crime prevention design advisors who can provide architects, developers and planners with advice on using design to help minimise the risk of crime for the whole community.

In October of last year I wrote to the chairs of all Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) highlighting the importance of working closely with businesses when developing their annual strategic assessments to make communities safer. These are a requirement for all CSPs and provide an opportunity to identify a better understanding of crime and the solutions which are effective.

To encourage them to develop their working relationship with local businesses, I drew their attention to the guidance produced by the then Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Home Office:

http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/business/partnershipsknow.pdf

This is designed to give businesses and their local partnership practical advice on reducing crime including how to work better together.

I also took this opportunity to draw their attention to the Home Office's 'Securing your Business' online self assessment tool:

http://secureyourbusiness.homeoffice.gov.uk/

which allows business users to assess what simple steps they might take to reduce the risk of crime, including store design and security systems.

We are currently distributing the Small Retailers Capital Grants Fund which is designed to help fight crime and is being allocated to around 1,000 small retailers in 50 priority areas across England and Wales. The grants are being used for a variety of purposes including: purchasing security equipment for individual retailers including CCTV, infrared security cameras, security shutters and rollers, safes, alarms, anti-fraud equipment such as UV markers to detect counterfeit notes, and anti-graffiti paint.

Crime: North Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were reported to North Yorkshire Police in each year since 1980. [322111]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is given in the tables.

Table 1: Offences recorded by the police in North Yorkshire, 1980-97

	Number
1980	21,699
1981	25,700
1982	29,611
1983	28,796
1984	31,638
1985	35,427
1986	35,968
1987	37,494
1988	34,686
1989	35,774
1990	46,252
1991	51,471
1992	54,816
1993	57,967
1994	62,153
1995	63,539
1996	56,919
1997	50,252

Table 2: Offences recorded by the police in North Yorkshire, 1998-99 to 2001-02[1, 2]

	Number
1998-99	55,309
1999-2000	53,554
2000-01	51,532
2001-02	59,125

[1] The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.

[2] The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Offences recorded by the police in North Yorkshire, 2002-03 to 2008-09[1]

	Number
2002-03	67,239
2003-04	71,473
2004-05	61,615
2005-06	58,850
2006-07	54,526
2007-08	49,944
2008-09	48,563

[1] The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Crimes of Violence: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes took place on Merseyside in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [322639]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The term 'violent crime' is no longer used. Data are supplied for violence against the person offences. In 2008-09, there were 19,015 violence against the person offences recorded by police in Merseyside. In total, there were 903,442 violence against the person offences recorded by police in England and Wales in 2008-09. For information, these data are published in 'Crime in England and Wales 2008-09' and are shown in Table 7.03 at the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1109chap7new.xls

Departmental Travel

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will publish the travel guidance issued to staff of each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies. [315025]

Mr. Woolas: For personal and business travel to benign areas, Home Office Agency staff are referred to the FCO website for general travel advice. We have some internal guidance tailored to Home Office needs which is issued to staff on request. This document is protectively marked and cannot be released for national security reasons. Where travel on Home Office business involves staff visiting non-benign and/or volatile high threat areas, specific advice would be provided on a case by case basis.

NDPBs are not covered by the centrally held guidance and make their own arrangements.

Detention Centres: Glasgow

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding has been allocated to the Alternatives to Detention pilot in Glasgow in 2007 to 2010; and how much funding has been allocated to the pilot for the next three financial years. [321103]

Mr. Woolas: The Family Returns pilot project started in June 2009. The UK Border Agency paid actual start up costs in 2009 of £63,343.62. The first financial year for the project is 2009-10 with the annual running costs being met through the current dispersal contract that the UK Border Agency has with Glasgow city council. Therefore, there is no additional funding allocated for the next three financial years. The project is due to run until 2012 but will be reviewed in 2010.

The cost of the Social Work Services provided by Glasgow City Council is met by the Scottish Government as social services is a devolved matter and the funding relates to two social workers and one social care worker.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many families are included in the Alternatives to Detention pilot being run in Glasgow; and whether there are plans to increase the number. [321105]

Mr. Woolas: The Project is for families only and will accommodate four to five families at any one time. At present there are five families participating in the scheme and there are no current plans to increase the size of the project which is monitored to assess how effective it is and whether any changes or improvements could or should be made. Upon its conclusion an independent evaluation will be conducted and the findings will be published.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* families, *(b)* individuals, *(c)* children aged under 18, *(d)* children aged under 16 and *(e)* children aged under 10 have taken part in the Alternatives to Detention pilot in Glasgow. [321107]

Mr. Woolas: To date *(a)* nine families have taken part in this project involving *(b)* a total of 36 individuals. These families consisted of: *(c)* five children aged 16 to 18 years, *(d)* seven aged 10 to under 16 years and 14 children under 10 years.

DNA: Databases

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals who have not been convicted of an offence have particulars of their DNA recorded on the national DNA database. [321666]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 11 March 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Meirionnydd Nant Conwy (Mr. Llwyd) on 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 908-09W.

Domestic Violence

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the British Crime Survey takes into account in its methodology the nature of domestic violence abusers when gathering information on domestic violence offences; and whether he has considered the merits of any other method of collecting such information. [321377]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The British Crime Survey (BCS) is carried out in respondents' own homes. It is recognised that respondents may not wish to disclose being victim of domestic abuse in a face-to-face interview, especially if the abuser is present at the time of interview. For that reason, the BCS includes a self-completion module on domestic abuse in which respondents may answer questions in private. It is likely that there remains a degree of under-reporting of the level of such abuse but trends will be unaffected as this methodology has been applied consistently over time. The Home Office also commissions ad-hoc social research projects to explore the nature of domestic violence and also to inform the development and evaluation of policy and practice as and when is required.

Copies of reports can be found online on the Home Office publication website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/

Drugs: Crime

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of drug-related offences there were in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since 1997. [321590]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data collected centrally on recorded crime do not identify whether offences are drug related. The recorded crime statistics do include the number of specific drug offences recorded by the police and the available information is given in the tables.

Statistics for Jarrow constituency are not available centrally and figures for South Tyneside relate to the South Tyneside Community Safety Partnership area.

The increase in recorded drug offences in recent years has been largely associated with the increased use of police powers to issue cannabis warnings.

Table 1: Drug offences recorded by the police, 1997[1]

Offence	*Number of offences* *1997*
South Tyneside CSP	n/a
North East Region	1,076
England and Wales	23,153

n/a = Not available.

[1] Trafficking in controlled drugs only.

Table 2: Drug offences recorded by the police, 1998-99 to 2001-02[1,2]

Offence	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
				Number of offences
South Tyneside CSP	n/a	n/a	383	509
North East Region	6,442	6,460	6,424	7,230
England and Wales	135,945	121,866	113,458	121,393

n/a = Not available.

[1] The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.

[2] The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Drug offences recorded by the police, 2002-03 to 2008-09[1]

Offence	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
							Number of offences
South Tyneside CSP	690	672	692	739	665	680	648
North East Region	9,014	7,987	7,149	8,280	8,447	8,195	9,129
England and Wales[2]	143,320	143,511	145,837	178,479	194,233	229,881	243,406

[1] The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

[2] Includes British Transport Police from 2002-03 onwards.

Police: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers there were in Birmingham in each year since 1997 and *(b)* police community support officers there were in Birmingham in each year since 2002. [321568]

Mr. Hanson: The available data are provided in the tables.

Police personnel statistics are not collected at the requested level. Data are collected at basic command unit level (which is equivalent to operational command units in west midlands). Data have been provided for the west midlands operational command units covering the Birmingham area (D1-D2, E1-E3 and F1-F3).

These and other related data are published annually as a supplementary part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Police officer and police community support officer strength, basic command units covering the Birmingham area[1], as at 31 March[2, 3]

	2002		*2003*		*2004*		*2005[4]*	
West midlands	*Officer*	*PCSO*	*Officer*	*PCSO*	*Officer*	*PCSO*	*Officer*	*PCSO*
D1	340	n/a	346	n/a	358	n/a	378	8
D2	347	n/a	342	n/a	356	n/a	360	23
D3	379	n/a	398	n/a	395	n/a	403	0
E1	344	n/a	334	n/a	334	n/a	343	4
E2	323	n/a	323	n/a	320	n/a	318	10
E3	286	n/a	295	n/a	292	n/a	296	8
F1	369	n/a	389	n/a	398	n/a	389	24
F2	302	n/a	300	n/a	308	n/a	305	12
F3	304	n/a	314	n/a	317	n/a	318	8
Total	2,992	n/a	3,039	n/a	3,077	n/a	3,110	97

	2006		*2007*		*2008*		*2009*	
West midlands	*Officer*	*PCSO*	*Officer*	*PCSO*	*Officer*	*PCSO*	*Officer*	*PCSO*
D1	372	10	371	30	381	40	387	50
D2	348	23	343	29	336	34	335	37
D3	399	0	401	25	399	31	418	39
E1	329	4	325	27	342	35	330	37
E2	304	10	306	25	310	28	305	29
E3	290	8	286	26	293	26	314	33
F1	371	27	376	23	384	26	385	26

	2006		2007		2008		2009	
West midlands	*Officer*	*PCSO*	*Officer*	*PCSO*	*Officer*	*PCSO*	*Officer*	*PCSO*
F2	291	12	297	28	302	31	300	32
F3	308	8	307	25	317	27	333	38
Total	3,013	102	3,012	238	3,065	278	3,106	319

[1] Police personnel data are not collected at the requested level. Data are collected at basic command unit level (which is equivalent to operational command units in west midlands). Data have been provided for the west midlands operational command units covering the Birmingham area (D1-D3, E1-E3 and F1-F3).

[2] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number; due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[3] Data by basic command unit are only available from 31 March 2002 for police officers and from 31 March 2007 for police community support officers.

[4] Police community support officer data are at 30 June for 2005 and 2006. This was a special collection made until data were included in the main statistical run.

Police: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department provided for *(a)* policing and *(b)* victim support services in Milton Keynes in each year since 1997. [321871]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information available can be found in the following tables. There is no available breakdown on figures just for Milton Keynes, as it is included in (a) Thames Valley policing figures and (b) Buckinghamshire victim support services figures.

Thames Valley police authority funding

	£ million
1997-98	176.0
1998-99[1]	185.8
1999-2000	188.7
2000-01	195.3
2001-02	218.9
2001-02[2]	213.6
2002-03	223.3
2003-04	231.9
2004-05	239.9
2005-06	249.7
2005-06[3]	249.7
2006-07	259.7
2007-08	270.7
2007-08	270.6
2008-09	275.3
2009-10	313.8

[1] For the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) in 1997-98.

[2] For the National Crime Squad (NCS) in 2001-02.

[3] For pensions and security funding in 2006-07.

Note:

1. These figures comprises the Home Office police grant and certain specific grants and capital provision, and also the Revenue Support grant and National non-domestic rates (both provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government).
2. Figures are not directly comparable across all years because of adjustments to the base line for funding transfers from general grant.

Buckinghamshire Victim Support Services funding

	Office of Criminal Justice Reform funding for Victim Support (£)
2001-02	201,951
2002-03	204,389
2003-04	205,845
2004-05	408,146
2005-06	408,076
2006-07	408,076
2007-08	448,805
2008-09	510,995

Notes:

1. Figures provided by the Office of Criminal Justice Reform.
2. The table above illustrates funding given to Buckinghamshire Victim support. There is no available breakdown on figures for Buckinghamshire before 2001.

Proof of Identity

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information his Department holds on which major retailers accept the UK CitizenCard as proof of age. [321952]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office is aware that the CitizenCard is accepted by a number of major retailers. However, we do not hold specific information on which retailers accept the card and which do not.

The Government support PASS, which is the national proof-of-age accreditation scheme. PASS sets minimum standards for proof-of-age cards including CitizenCard. The PASS hologram on a card is the hallmark indicating that the card issuer has passed a stringent audit carried out by trading standard officers. PASS cards are easily recognisable both to retailers and young people and provide assurance that the age details on the card are correct.

Theft: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vehicle-related thefts have been reported in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since 1997. [321594]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information is for offences recorded by the police and is given in the following tables. Statistics for Jarrow constituency are not available centrally and figures for South Tyneside relate to the South Tyneside Community Safety Partnership area.

Table 1: Vehicle-related thefts recorded by the police, 1997

Offence	*Number of offences 1997*
South Tyneside CSP	
Theft of a motor vehicle	n/a
Theft from a vehicle	n/a
North East Region	
Theft of a motor vehicle	24,641
Theft from a vehicle	34,814
England and Wales	
Theft of a motor vehicle	407,239
Theft from a vehicle	710,333

n/a = Not available.

Table 2: Vehicle-related thefts recorded by the police, 1998-99 to 2001-02[1,2]

				Number of offences
Offence	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
South Tyneside CSP				
Theft of a motor vehicle	n/a	1,008	1,014	743
Theft from a vehicle	n/a	1,585	1,671	1,471
North East Region				
Theft of a motor vehicle	21,650	18,402	16,307	15,346
Theft from a vehicle	27.524	29,953	27,920	27,113
England and Wales				
Theft of a motor vehicle	391,807	374,668	310,613	328,115
Theft from a vehicle	685,919	669,232	571,176	655,161

n/a = Not available.

[1] The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.

2. The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Vehicle-related thefts recorded by the police, 2002-03 to 2008-09[1]

							Number of offences
Offence	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
South Tyneside CSP							
Theft of a motor vehicle	734	587	507	461	405	366	306
Theft from a vehicle	1,581	1,117	1,069	1,281	947	779	561
North East Region							
Theft of a motor vehicle	13,872	13,277	10,893	9,783	8,028	7,060	5,878
Theft from a vehicle	28,132	24,378	20,761	20,833	19,183	15,344	13,645
England and Wales[2]							
Theft of a motor vehicle	318,507	291,858	242,732	214,182	193.384	170,008	147,342
Theft from a vehicle	663,679	603,256	500,360	507,239	502,651	432,374	396,950

[1] The data in this table takes account of the Introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

[2] Includes British Transport Police from 2002-03 onwards.

TREASURY

Income Tax Personal Allowance

16. **Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he last reviewed the levels of the income tax personal allowance; and if he will make a statement. [322200]

Mr. Timms: The 2009 pre-Budget report confirmed that the personal allowance and age-related allowances will remain at their 2009-10 levels for 2010-11, providing a real terms benefit relative to the fall in September's retail price index.

Income Tax

17. **Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the basic rate of income tax; and if he will make a statement. [322201]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of those in receipt of *(a)* working tax credit only, *(b)* child tax credit only and *(c)* working tax credit and child tax credit pay (i) standard rate and (ii) higher rate income tax. [318389]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Tax Credits received at April 2008	*Number of families with taxpayers*[1]*, by the highest rate of tax paid by at least one adult in the family*		*Proportion of families with taxpayers*[1] *(%)* *	
	Basic rate[2]	*Higher rate*	*Basic rate*[2]	*Higher rate*[3]
Working Tax Credit (WTC)	280,000	0	77	0
Child Tax Credits (CTC)	2,470,000	210,000	69	6
CTC and WTC	1,310,000	0	76	0

[1] Income from savings and investments is not included in the tax calculation

[2] This includes families that had starting rate income taxpayers

[3] This includes families that had basic and higher rate income taxpayers

Economic Growth Forecasts

18. **James Brokenshire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Prime Minister on forecasts for economic growth. [322202]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor and Prime Minister have regular discussions on a range of issues, including the prospects for the UK economy.

Government Debt

19. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on his Department's programme for reducing the level of Government debt; and if he will make a statement. [322203]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of such representations.

The 2009 pre-Budget report set out the Government's plans to ensure the sustainability of the public finances, and the Fiscal Responsibility Act has enshrined these plans in legislation.

The Chancellor will provide an update in his Budget statement on 24 March.

Fuel Duty

20. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect on motorists of the level of fuel duty. [322204]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Chancellor of the Exchequer takes a range of factors into consideration when contemplating rates of excise duty on road fuels. These include fiscal, economic, social and environmental considerations.

In the medium term, sound public finances are essential in order to protect stability, employment and growth for all UK residents, including motorists.

It is for this reason that at Budget 2009 the Chancellor announced that fuel duty would increase by 1p per litre in real term, in April 2010 to 2013. These changes will also help to save 2 million tonnes of CO_2 per year, by 2013.

Public Expenditure

21. **Mr. Heald:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Prime Minister and *(b)* other ministerial colleagues on the mechanism to determine the level of public expenditure in the next three years. [322206]

Mr. Byrne: The Chancellor, discusses public expenditure with the Prime Minister on a regular basis.

The level of public expenditure beyond 2010-11 will be set out as part of the next spending review.

The Chancellor continues to make clear that the current level of global uncertainty means that it would be risky to undertake a spending review at this time. The timing of the next spending review will be announced in due course.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much and what proportion of expenditure from the public purse in 2008-09 was spent in each constituent part of the UK. [322253]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 March 2010]:* Table 9.1 of the annual Public Expenditure and Statistical Analyses (PESA), published by the Treasury in June 2009, sets out the total identifiable expenditure on services by country and region for 2008-09:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pesa09_chapter9.pdf

(Cm7630).

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of *(a)* tax revenue and *(b)* other monies collected by his Department in 2008-09 came from (i) Wales, (ii) Scotland, (iii) Northern Ireland and (iv) England. [322254]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 March 2010]:* Figures on total tax revenue and other monies disaggregated by country are not available. Information on tax receipts at a UK level is given in table B10 of the pre-Budget report 2009:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr09_annexb.pdf

(Cm 7747)

Budget Deficit

22. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the current and future level of the budget deficit; and if he will make a statement. [322207]

Mr. Byrne: The Chancellor of the Exchequer will provide an update on the Government's fiscal position, including forecasts for the public finances, at Budget.

The Fiscal Responsibility Act puts a legal obligation on the Government to more than halve the deficit over four years and see debt falling by 2015-16.

Interest Rates

23. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effects on savers of low interest rates. [322208]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government seek to support savings and asset ownership for all across the life cycle—from childhood, through working life and into retirement.

The Government recognise that low interest rates, while benefiting many people with mortgages, have meant that savers have seen their return from savings fall.

At Budget 2009 the Government announced a package of measures to help savers. This includes an increase in the ISA limits, an increase in the capital disregard for pensioner-related Housing and Council Tax Benefit, and a campaign encouraging 3.4 million beneficiaries of Pension Credit to claim back any tax they may have overpaid on their savings income.

Manufacturing

24. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of the level of activity in the manufacturing sector. [322209]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Manufacturing is a key part of the economy, accounting for over 13 per cent. of output and over 50 per cent. of exports. In common with other economies, UK manufacturers were hit hard by the global recession. However, manufacturing output grew by 0.8 per cent. in the last quarter of 2009 and private business surveys suggest that the outlook for manufacturing continues to improve.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Binley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many companies have used the Enterprise Investment Scheme in each year since its inception. [322712]

Ian Pearson: The estimated number of companies that have used the Enterprise Investment Scheme in each tax-year up to and including 2007-08 is published annually on the HMRC website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/ent_invest_scheme/table8-1.pdf

The estimates for 2008-09 are scheduled to be published in December 2010.

Child Tax Credit: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families living in the City of York local authority area receive the child element of child tax credit; in respect of how many children that credit is paid; and what the average amount per week each such family received was in the latest period for which figures are available. [322109]

Mr. Timms: The latest information on the number of households benefiting from the child element of child tax credits, the number of children in those families and the average amount received in child and working tax credits, by local authority, is published in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised Awards 2007-08. Geographical Analyses". This is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-payments-0708.pdf

The same information for 2008-09 will be published shortly.

Domicil

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate HM Revenue and Customs has made of the number of UK citizens who have permanent residence in the UK that have retained domicile in *(a)* Belize, *(b)* the Turks and Caicos Islands, *(c)* the Cayman Islands and *(d)* the Bahamas. [316918]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* The information requested is not available, as individuals are not required to declare their domicile to HM Revenue and Customs.

Employee Benefit Trusts

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 161W, on employee benefit trusts, what the evidential basis is for HM Revenue and Customs' experience that employee benefit trusts with only one beneficiary are very uncommon. [316953]

Mr. Timms: In HMRC's experience, most companies that use employee benefit trusts (EBT) have more than one employee. This is because an EBT for only one employee would be ineffective for inheritance tax planning purposes.

Inheritance Tax: Housing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 11 January 2010, *Official Report,* column 769W, on inheritance tax: housing, (1) what the gross increase in cash terms in revenue from inheritance tax as a result of challenges by the Valuation Office Agency was in each year before 2008-09 for which figures are available; [319645]

(2) how many individual properties had their assessment for inheritance tax increased in 2008-09 as the result of a challenge by the Valuation Office Agency. [319646]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is provided in the following tables.

Gross increase in Inheritance tax revenues following challenge by the VOA, (£ million)

2008-09	96
2007-08	132
2006-07	105

Number of individual properties whose inheritance tax assessment was increased following challenge by the VOA

2008-09	3,589
2007-08	5,529
2006-07	4,935

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many port businesses were physically inspected when the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) began to rate port businesses separately; how many were notified that they were being assessed; and from where the VOA derived the information to make its assessments. [322227]

Ian Pearson: Since May 2006, the Valuation Office Agency has inspected over 800 properties (hereditaments) within 55 ports in England and Wales as part of the ports review.

Information was collected from the statutory port operators, ratepayers and through physical inspection of the property. In cases where the information supported separate assessment, the ratepayer was served a notice informing them of the assessment.

Research and Development Tax Credit

Mr. Binley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many small businesses have applied for research and development tax relief in each of the last three years. [322692]

Ian Pearson: Annual figures on research and development tax credits are published as National Statistics on the HMRC website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/randdtcmenu.htm

The latest figures show that the numbers of claims under the SME scheme were 4,960 in 2005-06, 5,270 in 2006-07, and 5,930 in 2007-08, and the amounts claimed were £180 million, £200 million and £250 million respectively. Figures for 2008-09 are not yet available.

Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps have been taken to improve data security at HM Revenue and Customs premises since 2008-09. [317291]

Mr. Timms: HMRC has an extensive programme of work to improve data security. This programme ran throughout 2008-09 and is continuing.

Key activities have included:

clarifying accountabilities for data security;

improving physical and technical controls on access to and movement of bulk data, and use of removable media; and

driving cultural change through mandatory training for all staff, improved guidance and targeted communication.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of staff of HM Revenue and Customs were *(a)* on fixed term appointments and *(b)* agency workers in each of the last three years. [321068]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 8 March 2010]:* The information is as follows:

(a) The information requested is provided in the following table.

	Fixed term appointments	
	Headcount	*Percentage of HMRC total headcount*
April 2007	4,206	4.4
April 2008	2,578	2.8
April 2009	1,327	1.5

(b) Agency staff numbers are available only at disproportionate cost, as they are not centrally held by HM Revenue and Customs' systems.

Tax Avoidance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he made of the implications for his Department of the judgment of the House of Lords in the case of Furniss v Dawson in 1984; and what estimate he has made of the effect of that judgment on the revenue of the Exchequer. [322243]

Mr. Timms: The 1984 Furniss *v.* Dawson judgment is one of a line of cases, often referred to as the "Ramsay" cases. These cases deal with the principle of statutory interpretation and establish the principle that tax legislation must be construed purposively and applied to a realistic view of the transactions that have taken place.

The tax effect of this line of cases is to apply tax provisions in line with Parliament's intentions, and so collect the tax that is properly due.

Taxation: Pensions

Mr. Scott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his policy is on the *(a)* removal and *(b)* reduction of tax relief on pensions savings for people paying income tax at the 40 per cent. rate; [319373]

(2) what his policy is on the introduction of a tax on the interest earned on pension fund investments; [319374]

(3) what his policy is on the introduction of a capital gains tax on pension fund investments; [319375]

(4) what his policy is on the *(a)* reduction and *(b)* abolition of tax free lump sums for qualifying pension schemes; [319376]

(5) what estimate his Department has made of the likely effect on Exchequer revenues of the *(a)* reduction and *(b)* abolition of tax free lump sums for qualifying pension schemes in the last 12 months; [319377]

(6) what estimate his Department has made of the likely effect on Exchequer revenues of the introduction of capital gains tax for pension funds in the last 12 months; [319378]

(7) what estimate his Department has made of the likely effect on Exchequer revenues of the introduction of taxation on pension fund growth in the last 12 months; [319379]

(8) what estimate his Department has made of the likely effect on Exchequer revenues of the *(a)* removal and *(b)* reduction of tax relief on pensions savings for people paying income tax at the 40 per cent. rate in the last 12 months. [319380]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government introduced a simplified regime for the taxation of pensions with effect from "A-day" (6 April 2006), and their approach to the taxation of pensions is set out in the Finance Act 2004 and in subsequent legislation.

Budget 2009 announced that from April 2011 tax relief on pension contributions would be restricted for those with incomes of £150,000 and over, and a consultation on the implementation of this restriction was launched at PBR 2009.

As with all areas of tax, the Government keep the taxation of pensions under review.

Taxation: Self-assessment and PAYE

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many errors in the calculation of tax based on *(a)* Pay-As-You-Earn and *(b)* self assessment were identified in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009; and how many errors in the calculation of all types of tax there were in each such year. [313093]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available as data on the numbers of errors in the calculation of tax are not held centrally.

VAT

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints from UK businesses HM Revenue and Customs has received regarding its plans to make submission of value added tax returns online compulsory from April 2010. [321094]

Mr. Timms: The Government's plans to make filing online value added tax returns compulsory from April 2010 has been largely welcomed by the professional tax community. HM Revenue and Customs has received 195 complaints, mostly from individual traders, about these plans.

Welfare Tax Credits: Foreigners

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the monetary value of *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit paid to (i) non-British EU nationals resident in the UK, (ii) non-EU nationals resident in the UK, (iii) non-British EU nationals not resident in the UK and (iv) non-EU nationals not resident in the UK to date; and if he will make a statement. [320156]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 3 March 2010]:* The information requested is not available, as tax credit claimants' nationality is not recorded by HM Revenue and Customs.

Tax credits are intended to provide support to families with children and to those in low-paid work in the UK. Therefore eligibility for tax credits depends on the claimants being present and ordinarily resident in the UK. Child tax credit claimants must also have a right to reside in the UK.

HEALTH

Abortion

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 684W, on abortions, for what reasons national health service numbers are not used as a unique patient identifier in respect of abortion operations; and what recent representations he has received on the matter. [322328]

Gillian Merron: The national health service number is not used as a unique patient identifier for women accessing abortion services for reasons of confidentiality, enabling women who wish to remain anonymous to do so. This is in accordance with the 'NHS Number programme' implementation guidance issued in December 2008, which confirms that exemptions apply to patients accessing sexual health services. The Government have received some representation on this matter and have no plans to change their position.

Arthritis: Health Services

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of rheumatoid arthritis services; what steps his Department is *(a)* taking and *(b)* plans to take to encourage primary care trusts to commission services in line with this assessment in the next six months; and if he will make a statement. [322283]

Ann Keen: The Department has not made any specific assessment of the effectiveness of rheumatoid arthritis services.

It is the responsibility of primary care trusts as commissioners of health care services to ensure that their populations have access to the services that reflect their needs, priorities and aspirations and that the design and provision of services is evidence based.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve the training provided to GPs in respect of rheumatoid arthritis; what funding his Department is providing to support this training; when he anticipates the educational material to be provided by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [322284]

Ann Keen: We recognise the importance of training in rheumatoid arthritis. The Government do not specify the content of the general practitioner training curriculum. This is developed by the Royal College of General Practitioners. Responsibility for approval of the curriculum reset with the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB), which is the competent authority for postgraduate medical training in the United Kingdom. PMETB is an independent professional body.

From 1 April 2010, the content of postgraduate medical training will be the responsibility of the General Medical Council (GMC) following a merge of the two organisations.

Central funding for postgraduate medical training is provided through Multi-Professional Education and Training (MPET).

Educational materials are developed by the appropriate professional bodies, such as the Medical Royal Colleges, and those responsible for delivering medical education.

While it is not practicable or desirable for the Government to prescribe the exact training that any individual doctor will receive we are, of course, aware of the need to ensure perceived areas of weakness in training curricula are addressed. For that reason, we are liaising with the Regulators and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges about how best to ensure curricula do meet requirements.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of progress towards meeting the 18-week waiting time target for access to rheumatoid arthritis services; what assessment he has made of the effect of the waiting time target on the provision of rheumatology services; and if he will make a statement. [322285]

Ann Keen: Latest figures, for December 2009, show that 98 per cent. of non-admitted rheumatology patients and 99 per cent. of admitted rheumatology patients started their treatment within 18 weeks of referral. Rheumatology is the treatment function category into which most rheumatoid arthritis patients will fall.

The 18 weeks waiting time standard has significantly improved access to consultant-led treatment—including patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Implementing the 18-week standard has driven earlier diagnosis and treatment of new patients—which is of particular benefit for patients diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis.

Bridlington Hospital: Bus Services

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the shuttle bus service between Bridlington and Scarborough hospitals and funded by the NHS has ceased operating; and when he expects the service to resume. [322363]

Ann Keen: The Information requested is not held centrally. However, the right hon. Member may wish to approach the Scarborough and North East Yorkshire healthcare NHS trust direct for this information.

Cancer: Drugs

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 242W, on cancer: drugs, (1) what period elapsed from the licensing of each drug referred to in the answer to the *(a)* draft and *(b)* final National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance being available; [322366]

(2) what cancer drugs have been appraised by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) since the answer; whether each was *(a)* recommended and *(b)* not recommended for NHS use; how long the appraisal of each took; whether the pharmaceutical company supplying each such drug offered to make it available through a patient access scheme; and how long it has taken from the licensing of each drug to draft and final NICE guidance being made available. [322371]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is shown in the table.

Topic	*Single Technology Appraisal (STA) or Multiple Technology Appraisal (MTA)*	*Date of market authorisation for relevant indication*	*Start of NICE appraisal*[2]	*Date of draft NICE guidance*	*Date of final NICE guidance*	*Recommendation*	*Patient Access Scheme considered by NICE*
Yondelis (trabectedin) for soft tissue sarcoma	STA	September 2007	September 2008	June 2009	February 2010	Partial recommendation	Yes
Hycamtin (topotecan) for small cell lung cancer	MTA	From January 2006	August 2008	July 2009	November 2009	Partial recommendation	No
Hycamtin (topotecan) for Cervical Cancer (recurrent)	STA	December 2006	December 2008	June 2009	October 2009	Partial recommendation	No
Sutent (sunitinib) for Gastrointestinal stromal tumours	STA	July 2006	August 2008	March 2009	September 2009	Partial recommendation	Yes
Alimta (pemetrexed) for the first-line treatment of non-small-cell lung cancer	STA	April 2008	October 2008	April 2009	September 2009	Partial recommendation	No
Erbitux (cetuximab) for Colorectal Cancer (first line)	STA	July 2008	January 2008	September 2008	August 2009	Partial recommendation	Yes
Avastin (bevacizumab) (first-line), Nexavar (sorafenib) (first-line and second-line), Sutent (sunitinib) (second-line) and Torisel (temsirolimus) (first-line) for the treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma	MTA	Nexavar—June 2006 Avastin—January 2008 Sutent—July 2006 Torisel—November 2007	September 2007[3]	August 2008	August 2009	Not recommended	Nexavar—yes Avastin—yes Sutent—yes Torisel—no

Topic	*Single Technology Appraisal (STA) or Multiple Technology Appraisal (MTA)*	*Date of market authorisation for relevant indication*	*Start of NICE appraisal*[1]	*Date of draft NICE guidance*	*Date of final NICE guidance*	*Recommendation*	*Patient Access Scheme considered by NICE*
Mabthera (rituximab) for first-line treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia	STA	February 2009	September 2008	March 2007	July 2009	Partial recommendation	No
Erbitux (cetuximab) for Head and Neck Cancer (squamous cell carcinoma)	STA	January 2009	September 2008	January 2009	June 2009	Not recommended	No
Revlimid (lenalidomide) for Multiple Myeloma	STA	June 2007	April 2008	October 2008	June 2009	Partial recommendation	Yes
Sutent (sunitinib) for the first-line treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma	MTA	July 2006	September 2007[2]	August 2008	March 2009	Partial recommendation	Yes
Tarceva (erlotinib) for the treatment of non-small-cell lung cancer	STA	September 2005	March 2006	November 2006	November 2008	Partial recommendation	Yes

[1] The date NICE commenced work on the appraisal. NICE will also have carried out scoping work for the appraisal before this date.

[2] This is the date on which the MTA began for Avastin (bevacizumab) (first-line), Nexavar (sorafenib) (first-line and second-line), Sutent (sunitinib) (first and second-line) and Torisel (temsirolimus) (first-line) for the treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma. The MTA was subsequently split and Sutent (sunitinib) for the first-line treatment of renal cell carcinoma was considered in a separate STA.

Care Homes: Inspections

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the policy is of the Care Quality Commission on assessment of a care home after a change in its rating. [322234]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following information has been supplied by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

A rating is only awarded, or can only be changed, following a 'key inspection'.

The CQC takes a proportionate approach to the frequency of its key inspections. A change to a lower rating, will result in an increase in the frequency of key inspections, and conversely a change to a higher rating will result in a decrease.

Carers: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been received in Birmingham *(a)* to enable breaks for carers and *(b)* from the New Deal for Carers programme in each year since 1997. [321570]

Phil Hope: The Government introduced the Carers' Grant in 1999 in recognition of the support carers need for breaks and other services.

The amount of funding that Birmingham has received from the Carers' Grant to support carers, including breaks, is in the following table.

Financial year	*Amount of grant (£ million)*
1999-2000	0.45
2000-01	1.22
2001-02	1.70
2002-03	2.05
2003-04	2.57
2004-05	3.20
2005-06	4.70
2006-07	4.79
2007-08	4.83
2008-09	5.88
2009-10	6.27
2010-11	6.94

"Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services", published in January 2006 (a copy of which has been placed in the Library), offered a new deal for carers through a range of measures, including a commitment to update the 1999 Carers' Strategy.

The revised strategy, published in 2008, commits £255 million over the current spending review period, 2008-11, to improve support for carers. This includes £50 million in 2009-10 and £100 million in 2010-11 which is being given to primary care trusts (PCTs) within their baseline allocations to provide breaks for carers. It is for PCTs to decide their priorities for investment locally, taking into account their local circumstances and priorities set out in the NHS Operating Framework.

The new deal for carers also included a commitment to provide training for carers. Through the Caring with Confidence programme, £150,000 will have been spent on training carers in Birmingham by 31 March 2010.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Research

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated any research on a relationship between myalgic encephalomyelitis and blood-related disorders. [322011]

Gillian Merron: The Department has, to date, not commissioned or evaluated any research. However, others, such as the Medical Research Council, the Health Protection Agency and the UK Blood Services, are currently considering these issues. I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 942W.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Staffordshire

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he has taken to ensure that Staffordshire has adequate specialist clinics for the treatment of myelgic encephalomyelitis and chronic fatigue syndrome; [321937]

(2) what funding he plans to provide to specialist clinics in Staffordshire for the treatment of myelgic encephalomyelitis and chronic fatigue syndrome. [321938]

Ann Keen: This information is not available. It is for local primary care trusts (PCTs) to decide what treatments to fund, and the Department does not dictate centrally how PCTs spend their budgets. We believe it is right that PCTs should decide how to spend their budgets based on the specific health care needs of their local populations.

Dementia: Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 224-25W, on dementia: drugs, what the salary is for the post of National Clinical Director for Dementia. [322271]

Phil Hope: The application pack for the post, which is a secondment, made clear that the salary for 2.5 days a week would be between £75,383 and £95,333 (or equivalent to Agenda for Change band 9), and that secondees who fell outside this pay range would be expected to come across on their current salary.

It is not the practice of the Department to reveal personal salary details for its staff unless they are covered in the remuneration report of the annual resource accounts which covers staff at board level. In common with other Departments and agencies, the Department will shortly publish details on its website of staff earning over £150,000. In this case, the National Clinical Director for Dementia does not take up post until 1 April 2010 and his salary is yet to be determined.

Dementia: Research

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 225W, on dementia: drugs, if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the first meeting of the ministerial group on dementia research held on 24 February 2010; what the outcomes were of that meeting; and if he will make a statement. [322270]

Phil Hope: A copy of the minutes of the meeting of the ministerial advisory group on dementia research held on 24 February 2010 has been placed in the Library.

The group has identified five broad workstreams. These will be taken forward by designated sub-groups led by one or more members of the group, drawing in additional advice and expertise as necessary.

The worksteam topics are:

agreeing priority topics for dementia research, in each of the three main areas of cause, cure and care;

finding ways of raising public awareness of, and support for, dementia research and increasing public engagement in dementia research;

increasing the success of dementia research in securing available funding and support and identifying ways to improve the capacity and capability of the dementia research workforce;

developing better ways of working between researchers and between public and private sectors;

identifying further ways to 'bust bureaucracy' where there are issues specific to dementia research; and

improving the 'translation' of research into better treatment and care.

Each workstream sub-group will examine its specific area in detail, identifying the major issues and suggesting practical ways to address them.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 866W, on departmental internet, what the cost was of the website redesign. [321929]

Phil Hope: The Department relaunched its corporate website:

www.dh.gov.uk

on 10 February 2008 following a project to redesign the site and restructure the content. The total cost of the redesign and implementation project was £513,000. This includes user research, visual and template design, content review and restructure, technical build, test and deployment, and testing.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many designs for its *(a)* internal website and *(b)* intranet his Department has commissioned since 2005; and what the cost was of each such design. [321987]

Phil Hope: The Department has an intranet site. Since 2005 there have been two redesigns commissioned.

In 2006 the design costs were £43,000.

In 2008-2009 the design costs were £26,576.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [322077]

Phil Hope: The Department does not distinguish between the two categories 'lost' and 'stolen' as these categories are not, and have not historically been, recorded separately.

From 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 the following items of departmental property were reported lost or stolen with an estimated replacement cost of £38,610.

	Number
Mobile phones	18
Laptops	34
BlackBerry hand held devices	22
Projectors	2
Storage devices (memory sticks etc.)	2
Other equipment	23
Total losses	101

Electromagnetic Fields: Health Hazards

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of illness or other ailments in children attributable to the operation of electromagnetic fields have been reported since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [322015]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not hold this information centrally.

The Department has supported research over the last decade in relation to concerns that there might be adverse effects from low levels of exposure to electromagnetic fields from power lines, mobile phones and telecommunications masts. In the course of this work, the scientific and medical communities have become aware of people who report an unusual sensitivity to electric or magnetic fields. A range of symptoms was noted by the Health Protection Agency's (HPA's) Radiation Protection Division in its publication, 'Mobile Phone and Health 2004', which is available on the HPA website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1254510624582?p=1219908766891

The HPA also published a study entitled 'Definition, Epidemiology and Management of Electrical Sensitivity', which is also available on the HPA website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1247816558210?p=1197637096018

The HPA is undertaking a programme of research on wireless local area networks, including wi-fi use in schools. Information about these studies is available on the HPA website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/HPA/Topics/Radiation/UnderstandingRadiation/1199451940308/

The Health Protection Agency and the World Health Organisation keep scientific reports on health effects from electromagnetic fields under review.

Eyesight: Testing

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to retain the age of eligibility for free NHS sight tests for women at 60 or over when the female state pension age rises above 60. [322000]

Ann Keen: The 2009 pre-Budget report announced that the age at which pensioner benefits can be received will increase in line with the female state pension age. The Government are working to give effect to these proposals. Changes to eligibility for national health service-funded sight tests for people aged 60 or over would require primary legislation.

Fertility

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) classifies *(a)* unfertilised eggs and *(b)* immature human eggs that have not been used to create an embryo as eggs that have failed to fertilise; and what guidance has been issued to the HFEA on the application of the provisions of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Acts 1990 and 2008 to the classification of eggs that have failed to fertilise. [322329]

Gillian Merron: The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) has advised that eggs which are classified as failed to fertilise are those eggs which have had sperm applied to them but subsequently did not fertilise. The Government have not given any guidance to the HFEA on how it should classify any egg that does not fertilise.

Health Services: Isle of Man

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2010, *Official Report,* column 350W, on health services: reciprocal arrangements, by what means his Department made the Isle of Man Government aware of its position on 9 March 2010. [322667]

Gillian Merron: Officials at the Department contacted, by phone, officials from the Isle of Man Government. Further e-mail advice was sent on 15 March 2010.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will meet the co-chair of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly, the right hon. Member for Torfaen (Mr. Murphy), to discuss the contents of his recent letter setting out the terms of the unanimous resolution passed by the Assembly requesting deferment of the decision to revoke the reciprocal health agreement between the UK and the Isle of Man; and if he will make a statement; [322680]

(2) on what date his officials informed him of the letter from the co-chair of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly, the right hon. Member for Torfaen, setting out the terms of the unanimous resolution passed by the Assembly requesting deferment of the decision to revoke the reciprocal health agreement between the UK and the Isle of Man; and if he will make a statement. [322681]

Gillian Merron: The Department received the letter on 3 March 2010 and will reply in due course.

Home Care Services: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) of 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 751W, on home care services, how much he estimates the cost of providing free personal home care will be, including costs for those who already get this care for free, in 2010-11. [320788]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The projected costs of implementing the Personal Care at Home Bill are set out in the impact assessment, which has already been placed in the Library. These do not include costs for those who already receive free home care; this will not represent an additional expense to councils with adult social services responsibilities, as they are already funding such care.

Hypertension

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of operations in NHS hospitals which were postponed consequent on the detection of high blood pressure in the patient in each of the last five years. [322231]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Influenza: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an estimate of the number of pensioners from York who have received influenza injections in the last 12 months. [322130]

Gillian Merron: Data on the number of people who have received influenza vaccine during the influenza season (winter) 2009-10 are available nationally and at the strategic health authority and the primary care trust (PCT) levels. No data are available for individual towns or cities.

It is estimated that in the North Yorkshire and York PCT up to the end of January 2010, 75,717 people aged 65 years and older have received the seasonal influenza vaccine and about 36,000 people aged 65 years and older have received swine influenza vaccine. Only those 65 and over in a risk group were eligible for the swine flu vaccine.

Injuries: Dangerous Dogs

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated at *(a)* an accident and emergency department and *(b)* an urgent care centre following an attack by a dangerous dog in the last 12 months. [321882]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information is not collected centrally in the format requested. For such information as is available, I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) on 8 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 702-03W.

Medical Records: Publicity

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department had spent on leafleting campaigns relating to the Summary Care Record in *(a)* London and *(b)* England on the latest date for which figures are available. [322230]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Between 1 January and 28 February 2010, 6,754,089 information packs were produced and sent to patients as part of the summary care record (SCR) public information programme, at a total cost of £1,734,450. Of these, 1,113,228 information packs were sent to people in London, at a cost of £285,877, and 5,640,861 were sent to patients in other parts of England, at a cost of £1,448,573.

In the period from the start of the early adopter phase of the SCR programme, in March 2007 to 31 December 2009, information packs were produced and sent to 2,336,774 patients in England. During this time mailing and postage costs were met by local national health service organisations and information is not held centrally on the costs involved. The unit cost of producing these information packs was £13.59 per pack.

A key reason for moving to regional public information programmes from 1 January 2010 was the improved value for money achieved by producing and distributing materials on a larger scale.

Medical Treatments: Waiting Lists

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for all treatments was in each year since 1997. [321943]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is shown in the following table:

In-patient waiting times—commissioner based

As at March each year	*Median wait (weeks)*
1997	13.2
1998	14.9
1999	12.9
2000	12.9
2001	12.6
2002	12.7
2003	11.9
2004	10.2
2005	8.5
2006	7.3
2007	6.2
2008	4.5
2009	4.0

Notes:

1. Figures shown relate to March each year, and are a snapshot of the median wait of patients waiting at the end of each period. The latest data available are for January 2010, and this figure shows the median wait of those still waiting at the end of that month of 5.0 weeks. March 2010 data will be published on 30 April 2010

2. It should be noted that median waits in the winter months historically tend to be higher than other months. We would therefore expect the median at March 2010 to be lower than five weeks as shown in January 2010.

Source:

Department, of Health, QF01, MMRCOM

Medicine: Overseas Students

Hilary Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to review its restrictions on access to post-graduate medical education by non-EEA graduates. [322003]

Ann Keen: The Department undertook a consultation exercise about managing medical migration last year and there was strong support for the restrictions on access to post-graduate medical education by non-European economic area graduates and there has been no change in circumstance since then that indicates a review is required.

NHS: Foreign Workers

Hilary Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) by what mechanisms adherence to the NHS Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Healthcare Workers is *(a)* monitored and *(b)* enforced; [322004]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects on *(a)* the number of African health workers employed in the NHS and *(b)* the number of British private recruitment agencies recruiting health workers from Africa of the NHS Code of Practice on International Recruitment since 2001. [322050]

Ann Keen: There is no centrally held information on the country of origin of health-workers, this is not captured in the national health service census.

The total number of British private recruitment agencies registered with the NHS Code of Practice on International Recruitment at January 2010 was 531. It is not known how many agencies have recruited specifically from Africa since 2001.

NHS Employers is responsible for promotion, advice and guidance on international recruitment.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what contractual negotiations his Department is engaged in with *(a)* Computer Sciences Corporation and *(b)* BT in relation to the National Programme for IT; what timetable has been set for the completion of these negotiations; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the monetary value of the current contracts held by these companies of those negotiations; [322232]

(2) on what dates his Department has met *(a)* BT and *(b)* Computer Sciences Corporation to discuss the National Programme for IT since the beginning of January 2010; what timetable he has set for future meetings with those companies; what items were in the agenda of each of those meetings; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each of those meetings. [322233]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department routinely engages with both the Computer Sciences Corporation and BT about a range of operational and commercial matters in relation to the national information technology programme contracts, and has continued to do so on numerous occasions since the beginning of January 2010. One objective of current discussions is to explore how to achieve a part of the national programme's £600 million contribution to the Government-wide plans to find efficiency savings and better value for money on major projects. These particular discussions are expected to be concluded by the end of March 2010.

There is no fixed timetable for future meetings, which will continue to occur as required.

Formal minutes of meetings since the beginning of January have not been taken.

Ovarian Cancer

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of women whose symptoms were initially misdiagnosed by their GP and who went on to develop terminal ovarian cancer since 2005. [322223]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. The Office for National Statistics is responsible for compiling and publishing mortality data, but the information concerning misdiagnosis does not form part of that work.

From a recent independent study on the awareness of the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer, we know that awareness of ovarian cancer is low. Through the work of the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative, we are making the public and health professionals more aware of the signs and symptoms of cancer, including ovarian cancer.

On 29 September 2009, the Prime Minister announced plans to offer all patients in England access to tests which can confirm or exclude cancer within one week. Under the new plans, where the general practitioner (GP) thinks that the risk of cancer does not justify a two-week urgent referral to see a specialist, but there are symptoms which require investigation, the GP will be able to refer for the appropriate tests to be carried out within one week.

Our aim is to start rolling this out from 2011-12 over a five-year period, starting in the first two years with ovarian, lung and colorectal cancer, where people will be able to expect access to the relevant diagnostics and test results within two weeks.

Palliative Care

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent estimate he has made of the number and proportion of people with *(a)* terminal cancer and *(b)* another terminal condition who receive care through (i) the healthcare system, (ii) the social care system and (iii) the social care and healthcare systems; [322161]

(2) whether patients with *(a)* terminal cancer and *(b)* another terminal condition are automatically eligible for assistance through the social care system. [322162]

Ann Keen: Information concerning the number and proportion of people with terminal cancer or another terminal condition who receive care through the healthcare system, the social care system, or the social care and healthcare systems, is not collected centrally.

Patients with terminal cancer or another terminal condition are not automatically eligible for social care assistance on the basis of their diagnosis. Entitlement to assistance is based on an individual's care needs assessment.

Councils have a duty under section 47(1) of the NHS and Community Care Act 1990, to carry out a community care assessment on anyone who appears to be in need of community care services.

Pregnant Women: Drugs

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many births to women addicted to *(a)* prescription, *(b)* non-prescription and *(c)* illegal drugs there were in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [322017]

Gillian Merron: The data requested are not in the format requested.

Psychiatry: Young People

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which primary care trusts do not employ any child and adolescent psychotherapists; [321885]

(2) which primary care trusts employ child and adolescent psychotherapists; and how many each employs. [321886]

Ann Keen: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Smoking: Health Services

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many free Quit Kits the NHS has distributed since the start of the Smokefree scheme; and if he will make a statement. [322014]

Gillian Merron: As at 7 March 2010, the national health service had distributed 421,420[1] Quit Kits. In addition, 95,000 Quit Kits were distributed through a part-funded arrangement with Asda pharmacies[2]. The campaign launched on 26 December 2009.

[1] These figures refer to Quit Kits ordered as a result of national advertising activity (web, phone, text, banner ads, F2F and coupons from direct mail, door drop and inserts) and sent out via our call centre Callcredit. Please note that these will not be the final audited figures.

[2] Asda part funded this activity splitting the cost of the production of the quit kits and taking on the full costs of distribution of the kits to all the Asda stores.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Religious Freedom

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports his Department has received on the treatment of religious minorities in Afghanistan. [321657]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Promoting human rights is integral to building a stable democracy in Afghanistan. We condemn all instances where individuals are persecuted because of their faith or belief and take every opportunity to urge Afghanistan to implement laws and practices which foster tolerance and mutual respect. This includes full implementation of those norms laid out in the 1981 UN Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. We receive regular updates on the human rights situation in Afghanistan, including on the treatment of religious minorities, from organisations such as the UN and non-governmental organisations. We have not received any confirmed reports of mistreatment of religious minorities in Afghanistan. Our embassy in Kabul continues to follow the human rights situation on the ground closely and raise matters of concern with the Afghan Government.

Bangladesh: Internally Displaced Persons

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether he has had discussions with the Government of Bangladesh on recent reports of arrests and forced displacements of Rohingya refugees; if he will request that the Government of Bangladesh recognises as refugees those of Rohingya origin who do not have documents; and if he will make a statement; [322602]

(2) what recent reports he has received on action against Rohingya refugees by Bangladesh law enforcement authorities; and if he will make a statement. [322605]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are concerned by the recent reports by Medecins Sans Frontieres and Physicians for Human Rights on the situation facing displaced Rohingyas in Bangladesh. We have raised the plight of the Rohingyas and their status with the Government of Bangladesh, both bilaterally and in concert with EU partners.

Officials from our High Commission in Dhaka, including the High Commissioner, have visited the camps for displaced Rohingyas, which are run by UN agencies. We are also supporting the European Commission and UN programmes for Rohingyas through the UK's core funding to the EU and the UN. In 2009, the UK Government also funded a British Council project to train English teachers within the camps.

Burma: Dams

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had recent discussions with the Chinese Government on the construction of dams on the Irrawaddy river by the China Power Investment Corporation and Burmese Ministry of Energy; and if he will make a statement. [322604]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary have discussed Burma with their Chinese counterparts. In recent weeks officials have discussed our broad concerns about the impact of large-scale construction projects on the human rights of the local population. We have not raised the specific issue of the construction of dams on the Irrawaddy River, but are following developments closely and with increasing concern. Our embassy in Rangoon is also supporting work to assess the social and environmental impact of these projects

Burma: Ethnic Groups

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on deportations from Thailand to Burma of ethnic Karen people; and if he will make a statement. [322610]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are closely monitoring reports about the possible forced return of Karen refugees to Burma. Our Ambassador to Thailand has raised our concerns with the Thai authorities stressing the importance of adherence to international standards and to Thailand's international obligations. We understand that the Royal Thai Government decided not to deport the 30 families it had originally identified for removal. We are coordinating closely with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, US and EU partners and will continue to raise the issue with Thai authorities.

Burma: Political Prisoners

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had *(a)* at EU level, *(b)* with the US administration and *(c)* with the Burmese Government on the case of Nyi Nyi Aung. [322478]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our embassies in Rangoon and in Washington have discussed the plight of Nyi Nyi Aung and developments in his case with US officials. While we regularly urge the Burmese regime to release all of the more than 2,100 political prisoners currently in detention, we have not raised this specific case directly with the authorities. We would naturally be ready to do so were the US Government to indicate this would be helpful. There has been no formal EU discussion on the case of Nyi Nyi Aung.

Burundi: Politics and Government

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the *(a)* treatment of opposition parties in Burundi and *(b)* activities of the youth wings affiliated to political parties in Burundi, with particular reference to the (i) National Council for the Defence of Democracy—Forces for the Defence of Democracy and (ii) Front for Democracy in Burundi. [321652]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Opposition parties in Burundi have been functioning as normal over the past three months in the run-up to the elections due to start in May, including free circulation of politicians in all areas, holding of party congresses, opening of new party offices and putting forward of election candidates. There have been minor scuffles between the "Inbonerakure", youth wing of the ruling National Council for Defence of Democracy—Forces for the Defence of Democracy and the Young Defenders of Burundian Democracy, youth wing of the Front for Democracy in Burundi. The Minister of the Interior has banned all youth wing activity in the province of Kirundo, and has vowed to extend the ban to other provinces in case of further trouble.

Capita

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions Capita Group plc tendered for contracts let by his Department in each of the last five years; how many such tenders were successful; how much his Department paid to Capita Group plc for the execution of contracts in each such year; how many contracts which terminate after 2010 Capita Group plc hold with his Department; and what the monetary value is of all outstanding contracts between his Department and Capita Group plc. [303155]

Chris Bryant: Capita Group PLC has primarily provided services to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in the last five years undertaking and supporting specific recruitment campaigns as well as recruiting individual specialists and other staff to fill specific slots in the organisation both in the UK and overseas.

The FCO is committed to recruiting a talented and diverse work force, ensuring that the most qualified candidates from the widest range of backgrounds apply. It sometimes outsources specific recruitment campaigns for new entrants, and when specialist knowledge of a specific job market is required. This is more cost effective than running all recruitment campaigns through a larger in-house team and is a model used extensively across Central Government.

The following amounts were paid to Capita Group PLC by the FCO in the UK in each of the last five years:

	£
2005-06	561,738
2006-07	876,185
2007-08	273,439
2008-09	127,294
2009-10	25,527

FCO Services, an Executive Agency of the FCO operating as an independent Trading Fund since 1 April 2008 spent the following amounts with Capita Group PLC:

	£
2007-08	118,000
2008-09	187,000
2009-10	561,000

FCO Services acquired Trading Fund Status in April 2008. To be a successful and efficient trading organisation, a different set of skills and underlying processes were required. Temporary skills and resource were therefore brought into the organisation by Capita through a government procurement framework, in order to help set up of new processes and then transfer those skills in-house. For example, FCO Services needed to develop its own capability to support critical services around the world in the event of a business continuity incident. As these skill sets were new and not available in-house, a temporary contract was provided through Capita to build up this capability and enable the skill sets and processes to be adapted and transferred in-house. Contracts were also, for example, awarded through

Capita to provide specialist sales and marketing resources. FCO Services had no specialist sales people prior to trading fund, but the need to drive forward their wider market sales in order to enable financial benefits to the FCO (e.g. price stabilisation and dividends) meant FCO Services needed the skills these resources provided.

Prior to 2007-08, FCO Services spend with Capita Group PLC is incorporated in the overall FCO figures.

Information regarding how many occasions Capita Group PLC tendered for FCO contracts in each of the last five years; how many such tenders were successful; how many contracts which terminate after 2010 Capita Group PLC hold; what the monetary value is of all outstanding contracts with Capita Group PLC; and the spend by overseas posts with Capita Group PLC, is not held centrally and would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Colombia: Human Rights

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Colombia on *(a)* the arrest, *(b)* the imprisonment and *(c)* due process in the trial of Professor Miguel Angel Beltran Villegas. [321612]

Chris Bryant: We have had no discussions with the Colombian Government about the arrest, imprisonment or trial of Professor Villegas. However, we understand that he has been charged with 'rebellion'; we have previously pointed out to the Colombian Government that those charged with crimes such as 'rebellion' should have their legal rights fully respected, including to a timely and fair trial.

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Colombia on academic freedom in that country. [321613]

Chris Bryant: We have not had any recent discussions with the Colombian Government on this issue. However, we constantly reiterate the need for the human rights of all Colombians to be recognised and protected.

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will request the Government of Colombia to produce the evidence it holds to substantiate the claim that Miguel Angel Beltran Villegas is *(a)* a member of the FARC and *(b)* the person known as Jaime Cienfuegos. [321614]

Chris Bryant: We cannot interfere in the legal process of another country. However, we have previously pointed out to the Colombian Government that those charged with crimes such as 'rebellion' should have their legal rights fully respected, including to a timely and fair trial. Our embassy in Bogota will monitor the proceedings of this case.

Counter-terrorism: International Cooperation

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the international coalition against terrorism; and if he will make a statement. [322679]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Terrorism is an international problem that requires an international response. Building a coalition is the only effective means by which we will counter it. The Government, therefore, attach great importance to our counter-terrorism work overseas, with both partner Governments and multilateral organisations. Our aim is to share best practice, co-ordinate UK effort bilaterally and multilaterally, ensure we avoid duplication of work and encourage others to take a comprehensive approach to countering the terrorist threat. The response of the international community to the failed Detroit bomb on Christmas Day illustrates the strength and breadth of the coalition against terrorism with January's Yemen meeting convened by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and attended by partners from the region and across the globe, helping to co-ordinate support for the people and Government of Yemen to tackle the threat from al-Qaeda and address its root causes.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Natural Resources

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his counterpart in the Democratic Republic of Congo on implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative; and if he will make a statement. [320356]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Support for the implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) forms a core part of our work to improve transparency in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). My noble Friend, the Minister for Africa, was in the country last month and spoke with Prime Minister Muzito about the need for economic development and the building of conditions which are conducive to business. He saw this as a priority and recognised that there is much work to be done.

Despite a slow start, EITI implementation in the DRC has recently been making considerable progress culminating in the publication of the first report on copper/cobalt and oil. Validation has started and there is reason to hope that the country's efforts will receive a largely positive reception from the International Secretariat in Oslo.

The Great Lakes Contact Group Taskforce on Mineral Exploitation had its first meeting in Kinshasa on 21 and 22 January 2010 with the Minister and Vice Minister for mines and representatives from the Ministries of Defence, the Interior and others, plus non-governmental organisations and Congolese commercial interests/industry attending. A draft text was agreed which included proposals on due diligence, legalisation of trade (Department for International Development Trading for Peace initiative), certification and financial infrastructure. The paper will now be presented to the DRC cabinet and capitals for final approval.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* disciplinary and *(b)* capability procedures have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed in his Department in each of the last five years; how much time on average was taken to complete each type of procedure in each such year; how many and what proportion of his

Department's staff were subject to each type of procedure in each such year; and how many and what proportion of each type of procedure resulted in the dismissal of the member of staff. [320631]

Chris Bryant: The number of disciplinary cases that have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed in each of the last five years in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and its agency FCO Services are as follows.

	FCO Main		*FCO Services*	
	Initiated	*Completed*	*Initiated*	*Completed*
2006	25	25	8	8
2007	21	21	7	7
2008	33	33	5	5
2009	35	35	7	6
2010	11	4	3	3

We do not hold central records of how much time on average was taken to complete the misconduct procedure in each such year; to collate this information would incur disproportionate costs.

The number of staff who were subject to disciplinary action under the FCO misconduct procedure in each such year and the proportion this represents is as follows.

	FCO Main		*FCO Services*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2006	25	0.4	8	0.1
2007	18	0.3	7	0.1
2008	30	0.5	5	0.1
2009	33	0.6	7	0.1
2010	11	0.2	3	0.02

There were six (0.1 per cent.) dismissals (combining FCO Main and FCO Services) resulting from misconduct procedure in 2006. As there are less than five dismissals in each of the following four years details are not provided to avoid revealing the identities of individuals and on grounds of confidentiality

The number of capability (b1—performance) and (b2—sickness absence) cases that have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed in each of the last five years are in the following table.

		FCO Main		*FCO Services*	
		Initiated	*Completed*	*Initiated*	*Completed*
b1	2006	11	11	0	0
b1	2007	16	16	0	0
b1	2008	19	19	0	0
b1	2009	22	15	1	1
b1	2010	3	10	0	0
b2	2006	[1]—	[1]—	0	0
B2	2007	[1]—	[1]—	0	0
b2	2008	[1]—	[1]—	13	13
b2	2009	49	28	29	29
b2	2010	8	0	5	5

[1] No central records held.

We do not hold central records of how much time on average was taken to complete the (b1) performance improvement and/or (b2) sickness absence procedures in each such year; to collate this information would incur disproportionate costs.

The number of staff who were subject to the (b1) performance improvement procedures and (b2) sickness absence procedures in each such year and the proportion this represents is:

		FCO Main		*FCO Services*	
		Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
b1	2006	11	0.2	0	0
b1	2007	16	0.3	0	0
b1	2008	19	0.4	0	0
b1	2009	23	0.4	1	0.01
b1	2010	10	0.2	0	0
b2	2006	[1]—	[1]—	0	0
b2	2007	[1]—	[1]—	0	0
b2	2008	[1]—	[1]—	13	0.2
b2	2009	49	0.9	29	0.1
b2	2010	29	0.5	5	0.1

[1] No central records held.

As there are fewer than five dismissals in each of the five years, details are not provided to avoid revealing the identities of individuals and on grounds of confidentiality.

These figures are for UK-based staff only. We do not hold central records for staff employed locally overseas and to obtain them would incur disproportionate costs.

The figures do not include those who resigned before the procedures were concluded.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 840W, on departmental internet, what the cost was of the website redesign. [321930]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 December 2009, namely, it is not possible to break down the costs for the 2008 redesign because the redesign costs were part of the wider Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) web platform project, which was delivered by Logica. Logica subcontracted elements of the project out (for example, to XM for design, to Alterian for the content management system, to Verizon for hosting). The amount Logica paid subcontractors for the design work is commercially protected and not known to the FCO.

In October 2009, the FCO redesigned the FCO corporate site:

www.fco.gov.uk

The work was completed using in-house resources at no additional cost. The in-house resources cannot be disaggregated from the ongoing cost of maintaining the FCO web platform.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many designs for its *(a)* internal website and *(b)* intranet his Department has commissioned since 2005; and what the cost was of each such design. [321988]

Chris Bryant: FCONet, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office intranet, has had two redesigns since 2005. The first design was commissioned to an external company at a cost of £28,680 and released in February 2008. The second design is being carried out now for release by

31 March 2010 and involves minor changes to refresh some aspects of the design. The design was provided by an internal designer as part of our ongoing commitment to seek value for money and is being applied to the intranet by our standing development team at no additional cost.

FCONet is the FCO's core internal communications and information tool and recently won an 'Award of Excellence' from Communicators in Business who described the intranet as "a definite beacon of best practice."

Departmental Legal Costs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent in *(a)* legal fees and *(b)* compensation on legal cases concerning remuneration of its employees in each of the last 10 years. [322060]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) only retains employment litigation records from 2003 onwards. Records show that legal fees on cases concerning remuneration of FCO employees in each year from 2003 to date, were as follows:

	£
2003	0
2004	14,983.85
2005	0
2006	17,587.04
2007	3,066.32
2008	14,767.06
2009	0

There are fewer than five legal cases concerning remuneration of FCO employees in each year from 2003 to date, and any compensation paid is subject to a legally binding compromise agreement containing a confidentiality clause. Therefore, in line with Cabinet Office guidance details are not provided to avoid revealing the identity of individuals and on grounds of confidentiality.

Departmental Paper

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* brands of (i) paper and (ii) paper products his Department uses; and what his Department's policy is on the procurement of those materials. [320030]

Chris Bryant: Since October 2007, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) uses a collaborative government framework agreement put in place by the Ministry of Defence for its supplies of paper in the UK. The supplier of the Framework is Office Depot. All A4 photocopy and printer paper purchased by the FCO is made from 100 per cent. recycled materials. A number of more specialised paper products are made from 75 per cent. recycled materials.

The FCO purchases hygiene paper products by Andrex, Scotts, Wypall and Tork (manufactured by Kimberley Clark and FCA) for its bathrooms, toilets and kitchen facilities in its offices in the UK.

80 per cent. of the FCO's bespoke print paper products from its in-house print facility are made from 100 per cent. recycled materials.

FCO Services, an Executive Agency of the FCO that has been operating independently as a Trading Fund since 1 April 2008, also has a framework agreement with Woodway Packaging for the supply of packing materials such as flatpack boxes and corrugated cardboard.

Information about the suppliers and brands of paper and paper products purchased by our missions overseas is not held centrally and would only be available at disproportionate cost.

The FCO is committed to operating in a sustainable and environmentally sound manner. All staff in the UK and working in its missions overseas are informed that it is policy to purchase 100 per cent. recycled paper. They are also informed that all paper and paper products should be purchased in line with Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affair's "Buy Sustainable—Quick Wins" guidance.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff of each grade in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies spent on first class travel in the last 12 months. [320400]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the hon. Member for Sheffield Heeley (Meg Munn), on 19 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 1188w, namely, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office makes travel arrangements in the most efficient and cost effective way. All official travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the code of management. As the information requested by the hon. Member is not held centrally it would incur disproportionate cost to collate.

Falkland Islands

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the Falkland Islands; and if he will make a statement. [321835]

Chris Bryant: None. We have no doubt about our sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and surrounding maritime areas. The principle of self determination underlies our position. We are, of course, in regular touch with the US at official level on this and many other issues. The US continues to recognise the UK's administration of the Falkland Islands. Positions are long standing, unchanged and well known.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had in each of the last five years with his Argentine counterpart on sovereignty over the Falkland Islands; and if he will make a statement. [321836]

Chris Bryant: None.

Iran: Religious Freedom

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the human rights situation of Jewish people in Iran since October 2009; and if he will make a statement. [321839]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Jews are one of three religious minorities, alongside Christians and Zoroastrians, which are constitutionally permitted to practise their religious faith in Iran. In reality however, they cannot hold positions in the judiciary, police and security forces, limiting the role they are permitted to play in public life. Although Jews have enjoyed a relative degree of freedom to practise their religion, including the use of Hebrew for religious instruction, they face various limitations on their rights to travel and to communicate with Jewish communities outside Iran, especially in Israel.

Iran's anti-Israel policy continues to create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation among Iran's Jews, and this fear has been propagated by President Ahmadinejad's repeated denial of the Holocaust and anti-Semitic and anti-Israeli propaganda in the media. The Government have raised concerns over the treatment of Iran's religious minorities on many occasions with the Iranian authorities, calling on the Iranian authorities to uphold their international legal undertakings to safeguard religious freedom and to stop discrimination and persecution on the grounds of religion.

Iraq: Iran

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Iraq on the situation in Camp Ashraf; and if he will take steps to ensure that residents of Camp Ashraf are not driven from Iraq. [322053]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have discussed the situation at Camp Ashraf with the Iraqi Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister, the Human Rights Minister, the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Iraqi Government's Ashraf Committee. I met the Iraqi Foreign Minister in Baghdad in December 2009 and underlined the need for the Iraqi authorities to deal with the residents of Camp Ashraf in a way that meets international humanitarian standards. In addition we discuss the issue with the UN, US, and EU.

The Iraqi authorities have told the residents that they can no longer stay at Camp Ashraf but have given assurances that no residents will be forcibly transferred to a country where they have reason to fear persecution, or where substantial grounds exist to believe they would be tortured. The Iraqi Human Rights Minister confirmed to our ambassador on 27 January 2010 that the Government of Iraq would deal with the residents of the camp with respect for their human rights in co-operation with the UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross. We believe it is in the interests of the residents to respect and accept the decision made by the Government of Iraq, and to cooperate peacefully with the Iraqi authorities.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter of 20 January 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton regarding Mr. M Kirkham. [322723]

David Miliband: I replied to the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton (Sir Gerald Kaufman) on 14 March 2010.

Morocco: International Assistance

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many volunteer workers at the Village of Hope/Village de l'Espérance at Ain Leuh ordered to leave by the government of Morocco are *(a)* United Kingdom and *(b)* European Union citizens; and if he will make a statement. [321851]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: 10 UK citizens and seven other European Union citizens have been expelled from Morocco.

Foreign Office officials in London met with the Moroccan Chargé d'Affaires on 10 March to express the UK's concerns. Foreign Office officials in Rabat have asked the Moroccan authorities for a full briefing on the matter.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for future EU-Morocco relations of the decision of the government of Morocco to expel volunteer workers from the Village of Hope/Village de l'Espérance at Ain Leuh on the charge of proselytizing the Kafala community and orphaned children in the province of Ifrant; and if he will make a statement. [321852]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No assessment has yet been made of the implications for future EU-Morocco relations. Respect for human rights principles, as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is an essential element of the EU's association agreement with Morocco.

Foreign Office officials in London met with the Moroccan chargé d'affaires on 10 March to express the UK's concerns. Foreign Office officials in Rabat have asked the Moroccan authorities for a full briefing on the matter.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Morocco on its decision to expel all foreign volunteers, including EU citizens, from the Village of Hope/Village de l'Espérance at Ain Leuh; and if he will make a statement. [321853]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed this with his Moroccan counterparts.

Foreign Office officials in London met with the Moroccan chargé d'affaires on 10 March to express the UK's concerns. Foreign Office officials in Rabat have asked the Moroccan authorities for a full briefing on the matter.

Morocco: Orphans

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will undertake an investigation into the treatment of British staff at the Christian orphanage in Fez. [322447]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our embassy in Morocco continues to seek further information about the treatment of British staff at the Christian orphanage in Morocco and has asked the Moroccan authorities for a full briefing on the matter.

We have provided consular assistance to those British citizens deported from Morocco.

North Korea: Prisoners

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the number of people held in North Korean labour camps. [321644]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to my response of 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 956W, which provides the most recent information I have.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Gaza. [322400]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The situation in Gaza is very serious, and it has the potential to derail any peace effort, but Hamas cannot be allowed to block peace negotiations. We will continue to work both to improve the situation in Gaza and to move peace talks forward.

We have made available £26.8 million for the relief operation and are pressing Israel to open the crossings more fully to ensure the people of Gaza receive the humanitarian aid and reconstruction materials they need.

We are extremely concerned by reports that Hamas has moved violently against its political opponents and those deemed to be collaborators with Israeli forces. The UK calls for Hamas to halt such acts along with its terrorist attacks against southern Israel.

Repatriation: Finance

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria are used to decide whether a country receives funding from the Returns and Reintegration Fund; what role the *(a)* Department for International Development and *(b)* UK Border Agency play in the management of the fund; and if he will make a statement. [322336]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The ove[illegible]he Returns and Reintegration Fund (RRF) is [illegible]rease significantly the number of foreign national prisoners (FNPs) and failed asylum seekers (FASs) who return to their countries of origin and to ensure their effective reintegration into their home communities. Funding is therefore allocated to countries where we can run projects that will bring about an increase in the rate of return of FASs and FNPs.

The Returns and Reintegration Fund is managed by a cross-Government senior official steering group, which is accountable to Ministers. Senior officials from the Department for International Development and UK Border Agency are members of that steering group.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Department for International Development and *(c)* the UK Border Agency have provided for the Returns and Reintegration Fund in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; whether any such funding is classified as development assistance; and if he will make a statement. [322337]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provided £2.5 million to the Returns and Reintegration Fund (RRF) in 2008-09. There will be no further direct financial contribution to the fund from the FCO in 2009-10, but the Department supports the RRF through staffing and support throughout its global network. The Department for International Development provided £5 million to the RRF in 2008-09 and £11.5 million in 2009-10. UK Border Agency provided £4 million to the RRF in 2008-09 and £2.5 million in 2009-10.

Only one RRF project in Jamaica currently to the value of approximately £1.5 million is classified as development assistance. Money transferred to the RRF from the Department for International Development is separate to the Department's Official Development Assistance eligible budget.

South Africa: Football

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with Ministerial colleagues steps to raise levels of awareness of people travelling to the 2010 World Cup finals in South Africa of HIV/AIDS. [322088]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and our high commission in Pretoria are working with a wide range of stakeholders to provide advice for British fans travelling to South Africa for the 2010 World Cup, including through the Know Before You Go campaign, working with associated partners, and through FCO Travel Advice. Our official World Cup travel safety campaign "Be On the Ball" will reinforce important safety messages, including on HIV and health, regularly in the run up to the World Cup, using a variety of communication methods.

We are already providing advice and tips through the website

www.fco.gov.uk/worldcup

which we will be regularly updating in the period leading up to the World Cup. This includes a page dedicated to the issue of HIV and AIDS.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with its US counterpart on allegations of war crimes during the military conflict in northern Sri Lanka in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [321846]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office hold regular discussions with US officials on the need for a credible process to address reports of violations of international humanitarian law by both sides during the conflict in Sri Lanka. We believe this could play an important role towards genuine national reconciliation.

Terrorism: Detainees

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral answer to the hon. Member for Walsall North (Mr. Winnick) of 10 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 294, on what date the Government made representations to the US administration on the use of torture of detainees suspected of involvement in terrorism. [322448]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC) 2005 report, "The Handling of Detainees by UK Intelligence Personnel in Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay and Iraq" sets out the actions taken by UK officials and Ministers in response to concerns about the treatment of detainees in US custody. The report shows representations were made to the US authorities from June 2002. Most of the specific incidents described in the Committee's Report were followed up with the US authorities, either in theatre or through intelligence and diplomatic channels, including at ministerial level.

Thailand: Children

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to seek to secure the accession of Thailand to the Hague Convention on international child abduction; and if he will make a statement. [321920]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Thailand acceded to the 1980 Hague convention on the civil aspects of international child abduction on 14 August 2002. The convention is not however in force between the United Kingdom and Thailand. Before entering into force with a country that accedes to the convention we need to be satisfied that the country has put in place the necessary systems to support its operation. To date we have not received sufficient information in order to be satisfied that Thailand has done so.

Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in how many instances the Government have opted into a proposed measure presented to the Council of Ministers pursuant to Title V of Part Three of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union within three months of its presentation to the Council in circumstances when the UK has not opted into the proposal beforehand. [318887]

Chris Bryant: To date the Government have opted in to one new proposal pursuant to Title V of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.

Four opt-in decisions have been made since the Lisbon Treaty came into force on 1 December 2009. In the case of the amended Asylum Procedures Directive, the amended Asylum Qualifications Directive, and the Succession and Wills regulation the Government took the decision not to opt in. In the case of the fourth proposal for a Directive on Interpretation and Translation in Criminal Proceedings, the Government informed the Commission of their decision to opt in on 8 March.

In the case of the interim EU-US SWIFT agreement, the European Parliament voted against the proposal before the UK was required to exercise its opt-in. The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury has written to Parliament explaining these circumstances in more detail.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Algerian counterpart on *(a)* the decision to close land borders with Morocco since 1994 and *(b)* the effects of such closure on regional co-operation on (i) security and (ii) counter-terrorism initiatives; and if he will make a statement. [321618]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have not had any specific discussion with my Algerian counterpart regarding the 1994 closure of land borders between Algeria and Morocco. However, we do have regular dialogue with the Algerian authorities on regional co-operation, security of the region and counter terrorism activities. These issues were last raised during the UK/Algeria ministerial dialogue meeting held in London on 2 March, which I co-chaired with Abdelkader Messahel, the Algerian Minister Delegate for Maghreb and African Affairs.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on *(a)* Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps in Algeria and *(b)* proposals to undertake a census in such camps. [321619]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Officials from our embassy in Rabat recently discussed the situation of refugees in the Tindouf camps with representatives of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in February. British officials also meet with UNHCR representatives as part of their visits programme to the disputed territory of Western Sahara and the refugee camps. There has been no discussion with UNHCR about undertaking a census of the populations in the camps during these meetings.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the powers the Moroccan government has offered to devolve to Western Sahara in the framework of its autonomy initiative as submitted to the United Nations Secretary General on 11 April 2007. [322339]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has a copy of the proposal Morocco submitted to the UN Secretary-General in April 2007, which was noted in UN Security Council Resolution 1754 (2007) as a serious and credible effort. The UK continues to support the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to Western Sahara, Ambassador Christopher Ross, to build confidence between the parties and find a negotiated political solution that provides for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on major infrastructure projects which have been undertaken by Morocco in Western Sahara to modernise the region and improve the standard of living of the local population. [322340]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have had briefings from Moroccan officials responsible for development programmes in Western Sahara. These take place in the context of our programme of visits to the disputed territory; the most recent of these visits being December 2009.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the political situation in Zimbabwe. [322676]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Hard-liners in Zimbabwe continue to obstruct implementation of the Global Political Agreement (GPA). This month President Mugabe reallocated some ministerial portfolios unilaterally. Human rights abuses and farm seizures continue. The media, electoral and human rights commissions on which the GPA signatories reiterated their agreement in December are not yet operational.

Southern and South African diplomacy in support of reform is ongoing. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made clear during President Zuma's visit to the UK on 3 to 5 March 2010, we continue to support President Zuma's efforts to broker reforms leading to free and fair elections in Zimbabwe.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what volume of carbon dioxide emissions has been recorded in the UK on an environmental accounts basis in each year since 1990. [320331]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what volume carbon dioxide emissions has been recorded in the UK on an environmental accounts basis in each year since 1990 (320331).

Estimates of air emissions, including carbon dioxide, are published annually by ONS as part of the Environmental Accounts.

The ONS Environmental Accounts measure greenhouse gas emissions on a UK resident basis, in order to be comparable with National Accounts economic data. Therefore, they include emissions generated by UK residents in the UK and emissions from UK residents' transport and travel activities abroad. They exclude emissions generated by non-residents' transport and travel in the UK.

As such, these data are on a different basis from estimates published by the Department for Energy and Climate Change under the UK's Kyoto Protocol obligations. The Kyoto Protocol basis covers emissions from UK territory only and excludes emissions from international aviation and shipping.

The most recent publication was on 12 June 2009 and statistics on carbon dioxide emissions for the period 1990-2007 are available on the National Statistics website at the following address:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Expodata/Spreadsheets/D5695.xls

The table in the annex presents the weight of carbon dioxide emissions created between 1990 and 2007 on a UK Environmental Accounts basis.

Carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions between 1990 and 2007

Year	*Thousands of tonnes*
1990	626,765
1991	634,897
1992	619,478
1993	607,200
1994	602,065
1995	595,001
1996	622,792
1997	601,665
1998	607,730
1999	597,966
2000	609,416
2001	625,779
2002	609,875
2003	624,421
2004	631,084
2005	632,180
2006	622,375
2007	613,000

Source:
AEA Energy and Environment, Office for National Statistics

Carbon Emissions: Housing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an assessment of the merits of withdrawing subsidies from suppliers of Carbon Emissions Reduction Target scheme products in circumstances in which their products are deemed to be dominant in the market. [322482]

Joan Ruddock: The supplier obligation (now termed the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target) has been set over three year cycles precisely to allow the Government to reflect on its successes and to evolve the scheme so that it only pulls through the most energy efficient products with the most potential to provide for household sector carbon emissions reductions. The measures eligible for each phase are subject to full public consultation. The consultation on the April 2011 to December 2012 extension of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target, concluding on 14 March 2010, does though specifically ask whether the Government should introduce up front sunset clauses for products when they reach a certain level of market penetration.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent research his Department has undertaken into the *(a)* cost-effectiveness of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target scheme and *(b)* effectiveness of the administration of that scheme; and if he will make a statement. [322484]

Joan Ruddock: An independent assessment is commissioned at the end of each three year phase of the Supplier Obligation (now termed the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target), building on the cost-benefit assessment undertaken and published at the launch of each scheme. Independent analysis of the three year supplier obligation scheme ending March 2008 showed it to have been extremely cost effective in delivery—that for every £1 added on to GB household bills to pay for the obligation, benefits equate to an average saving of £9 per household bill over the lifetime of the measures. Equally, the present supplier obligation, the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target, is believed to be highly cost-effective, with expected annual benefits (net of costs) of around £649 million for the lifetime of the measures, with around £228 benefits per tonne of carbon dioxide saved in the traded sector and £153 benefits per tonne of CO_2 saved in the non-traded sector.

Departmental Advertising

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost was of each full-page advertisement taken out by his Department in a national newspaper in *(a)* October and *(b)* November 2009. [320336]

Joan Ruddock: We have not taken out full page advertisements for the Act on CO_2 campaign in October and November 2009 except in newspaper supplements (mainly due to their format size). See the following table.

Act on CO_2 campaign—Full page newspaper adverts (including supplements), October to November 2009—planned booking costs only

Publication	*Size*	*Gross cost per insertion (£)*	*Number of insertions*
Times Magazine	Page Clr	6,000	2
Sunday Times Magazine	Page Clr	15,000	1
Daily Telegraph Magazine	Page Clr	7,500	2
Sunday Telegraph Magazine	Page Clr	3,800	2
Guardian Magazine	Page Clr	3,500	2
Observer Magazine	Page Clr	3,500	2
Independent Magazine	Page Clr	2,800	2
Independent on Sunday—Magazine	Page Clr	2,500	2
Mail on Sunday—You	Page Clr	15,000	1
Sunday Express—S Magazine	Page Clr	4,500	1

Note:
All rates subject to negotiation and availability at time of booking.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 903W, on departmental internet, what the cost was of the website redesign. [321931]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has commissioned only one design for its website since inception. The design is that used by the Department's official corporate website:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/

which was launched on 23 February 2009. The cost of the design work was £8,435.00.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many designs for its *(a)* internal website and *(b)* intranet his Department has commissioned since its inception; and what the cost was of each such design. [321993]

Joan Ruddock: The Department does not have an internal website other than its intranet.

The Department has commissioned one design for its intranet since inception. The cost of the design was £2,185.00

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 103W, on departmental marketing, how much his Department and agencies have spent on advertising, marketing, public relations and publicity in relation to the *(a)* Real Help Now and *(b)* Building Britain's Future themed campaign to date. [320457]

Joan Ruddock: There has been no expenditure on advertising, marketing or public relations and publicity on either the 'Real Help Now' or the 'Building Britain's Future' campaign by the Department of Energy and Climate Change or its agencies.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many full-time equivalent staff of each grade are employed by his Department to assist special advisers. [321134]

Joan Ruddock: One full-time equivalent executive officer and one full-time equivalent administrative officer assist special advisers in my Department.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff of each grade in his Department spent on first class travel in the last 12 months. [320402]

Joan Ruddock: During the financial year 2009-10 from 1 April 2009 to 31 January 2010 the Department of Energy and Climate Change has spent £152,502.53 on first class rail travel. No first class air travel was undertaken during this period. A breakdown of data for Ministers and officials by grade can be provided only by incurring disproportionate costs.

Energy: Billing

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the effect on domestic fuel bills of the Renewable Heat Incentive in each of the next five years. [321462]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 10 March 2010]:* The Government published a consultation on the Renewable Heat Incentive on 1 February which remains open until 26 April and we invite stakeholders to respond with their views about the design of the incentive scheme.

As set out in the consultation, the Government are looking at options of how best to fund the Renewable Heat Incentive and we will make a further announcement at Budget 2010.

Energy: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to require energy suppliers to account for expenditure on meeting their carbon emissions reduction targets by reporting savings achieved as tonnes of carbon saved against expenditure in respect of each tariff; and if he will make a statement. [322481]

Joan Ruddock: The Government agree that improving the transparency of the costs falling to suppliers from meeting their supplier obligation and how they pass these costs onto consumers is critical. The Government's 'Warm Homes, Greener Homes' strategy published in early March set out the importance of greater transparency in any post-2013 energy company obligation, including around cost information. We continue to develop the detail of this arrangement, and will pursue new powers as necessary.

Fossil Fuels

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he made of the level of fossil fuel dependency in the latest year for which figures are available; and what information he holds for benchmarking purposes on the level of fossil fuel dependency of other G8 countries. [320315]

Mr. Kidney: Fossil fuel dependency is measured as the proportion of total primary energy supply met by coal, oil and gas. In 2008 the UK had a dependency rate of 91.5 per cent.

International comparisons for benchmarking purposes are published as indicator E5.5 in DECC's Energy Sector Indicators. Data for G8 countries are shown in the following table, with data sourced from the International Energy Agency. Due to different adjustments being made by the IEA and the use of net calorific values, a slightly different estimate is produced for the UK.

Fossil fuel dependency in 2008

	Percentage
Canada	75
France	51
Germany	81
Italy	90
Japan	83
Russia[1]	89
UK	90
US	85

[1] Data for Russia are for 2007

Greater Manchester

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Manchester, Gorton constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since its inception. [322143]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has implemented a large number of policies to address energy security, emissions reductions, low carbon economic growth and fuel poverty. Some of the key achievements are set out as follows, along with information on the number of households assisted by the Warm Front scheme in Manchester, Gorton constituency. It would be disproportionately costly to provide statistical information on the impact of all the policies to the level of detail requested, but statistical information covering energy and climate change is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/statistics.aspx

Key achievements

The UK is on track to cut emissions by nearly twice our Kyoto target (22 per cent. below 1990 levels by 2008-12 compared to the target of 12.5 per cent. set out under the Kyoto agreement).

The Climate Change Act in 2008 set a target of at least 80 per cent. reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050. Our first three carbon budgets legally bind the UK to a cut in greenhouse gases of 34 per cent. by 2018-22 against a 1990 baseline. In 2009, the UK's Low Carbon Transition Plan set out the long-term vision for climate change and energy and showing how we will meet the carbon budgets set out in the Climate Change Act.

In 2009, my Department published National Policy Statements on energy infrastructure which will lead to faster and fairer planning decisions and a diverse low carbon energy mix. An ambitious new framework for clean coal will also drive development of carbon capture and storage.

The UK's energy market is the most competitive in the EU and has attracted over £97 billion of investment from 1997 to 2008 (at 2005 prices). The UK also has the greatest installed capacity of offshore wind in the world.

In March 2010 the Government's household energy management strategy—Warm Homes, Greener Homes—set out plans for meeting the target of a reduction of 29 per cent. in (non-traded) carbon emissions in the household sector. The strategy will make it easier for people to take action, removing the deterrent of upfront costs by, for example, paving the way for 'pay as you save' energy efficiency loans.

The Government will be providing more financial assistance to help people generate their own heat and electricity in low carbon ways, where appropriate, through 'clean energy cashback' schemes.

Warm Front scheme: Manchester, Gorton constituency

DECC's Warm Front scheme provides grants for households on qualifying income and disability-related benefits to install a range of insulation and heating measures in their homes. The number of households assisted in Manchester, Gorton from 6 April 2008 to 28 February 2010 was 914.

Marine Renewables Deployment Fund

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been disbursed from the Marine Renewables Deployment Fund to date. [320305]

Mr. Kidney: A total of £2,275,000 has been disbursed from the Marine Renewables Deployment Fund (MRDF) through infrastructure and research projects since its inception in 2005.

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has taken steps to establish a forum for non-governmental organisations to consider issues arising from proposals for the construction of new nuclear plants. [322477]

Mr. Kidney: Yes. It is planned that such a forum for non-governmental organisations will be established. The draft Terms of Reference of this forum will be subject to discussion, debate and agreement at an inaugural meeting, which it is intended to hold this spring.

Office of Gas and Electricity Markets: Manpower

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets employed on the latest date for which figures are available. [320324]

Joan Ruddock: The latest date for which figures are available is 28 February 2010. At this date, DECC employed 1,103 officials (i.e. staff employed directly by DECC either permanently or temporarily). The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets employed 367 officials. Figures are provided on a full-time equivalent basis.

Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Stroud constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies and actions since 2008. [321482]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has implemented a large number of policies to address energy security, emissions reductions, low carbon economic growth and fuel poverty. Some of the key achievements are set out below, along with information on the number of households assisted by the Warm Front scheme in Stroud constituency. It would be disproportionately costly to provide statistical information on all the impact of all the policies to the level of detail requested, but statistical information covering energy and climate change is available at

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/statistics.aspx

Key achievements

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In March 2010 the Government's household energy management strategy—Warm Homes, Greener Homes—set out plans for meeting the target of a reduction of 29 per cent. in (non-traded) carbon emissions in the household sector. The strategy will make it easier for people to take action, removing the deterrent of upfront costs by, for example, paving the way for 'pay as you save' energy efficiency loans.

Government will be providing more financial assistance to help people generate their own heat and electricity in low carbon ways, where appropriate, through 'clean energy cashback' schemes.

Warm Front scheme: Stroud constituency

DECC's Warm Front scheme provides grants for households on qualifying income and disability related benefits to install a range of insulation and heating measures in their homes. The number of households assisted in Stroud from April 2008 to 28 February 2010 was 626.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the fee accompanying an application for a wind turbine development is provided to the local authority responsible for initial assessment of the application; and if he will make a statement. [322440]

Mr. Kidney: Wind farms generating 50MW or more were considered by DECC under the Electricity Act 1989 up to 28 February 2010. As of 1 March 2010 applications for wind turbines generating 50MW or more are to be considered by the Infrastructure Planning Commission under the Planning Act 2008. In both instances none of the application fee was or is made available to the relevant local planning authority.

Planning implication fees for wind turbine generating stations generating less than 50MW in England and Wales are considered through the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the planning application fee goes to the relevant local planning authority that receives the application.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Leader of the House how many designs for its *(a)* internal website and *(b)* intranet her Office has commissioned since 2005; and what the cost was of each such design. [321983]

Barbara Keeley: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons does not maintain its own internal website or intranet. The Office is part of the Cabinet Office and staff therefore have access to the Cabinet Office intranet service.

Members: Pensions

Martin Horwood: To ask the Leader of the House how many and what proportion of its shares the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund held in *(a)* British Petroleum and *(b)* Royal Dutch Shell on the latest date for which figures are available; and what the monetary value was of those shares on that date. [322503]

Barbara Keeley: The investment of the assets of the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund is a matter for the Fund's Trustees. The Chairman of Trustees will be writing to the hon. Member separately.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Christine Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what *(a)* circumstances and *(b)* proportion of cases interest is applied to arrears owed by non-resident parents in cases managed by the Child Support Agency. [320377]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what (a) circumstances and (b) proportion of cases interest is applied to arrears owed by non-resident parents in cases managed by the Child Support Agency. [320377]

The CSA does not apply interest charges to maintenance arrears and has not done so since April 1995. Section 43 of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 extinguished liability for any interest outstanding from periods prior to April 1995.

There are however exceptions for enforcement cases when interest can be charged following registration of a liability with the County Court. Interest in these circumstances is not calculated under Child Support legislation, but under general rules applying to court orders. In practice, this is only applied in cases involving applications for an Order for Sale, where the CSA may apply to the court for any interest accruing between the date a liability order was registered with the County Court and the application for an Order for Sale.

As of 31 December 2009 the CSA was dealing with 1,213,100 live and assessed cases. Only Order for Sale cases with a secured debt balance in excess of £5000 have interest collected on them. As at 31 December 2009 the CSA had referred 342 Order for Sale actions, which represents less than 0.3% of the live and assessed caseload.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many absent parents in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency are being dealt with by the Child Support Agency. [320797]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many absent parents in (a) Scotland and (b) Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency are being dealt with by the Child Support Agency.

Latest figures show as at December 2009, the number of cases in Scotland is 111,050; of these 320 are in the Parliamentary Constituency of Na h-Eileanan an Iar. These figures include old scheme cases with a full or interim maintenance assessment as well as current scheme cases with a full maintenance calculation or default maintenance decision. Figures are adjusted to reflect those cases administered clerically.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times the Child Support Agency (CSA) has imposed a sanction of *(a)* deduction of earnings orders, *(b)* deduction from bank accounts, *(c)* seizure and sale of goods by bailiffs, *(d)* registering a charging order against assets, *(e)* obtaining a third party order to freeze assets in the bank accounts to which non-resident parties are entitled, *(f)* disqualifying the non-resident parent from driving, *(g)* gaining a warrant committing the non-resident parent to prison, *(h)* applying to a magistrates' court to impose a curfew for non-resident parents, *(i)* applying to the courts to search the non-resident parents against whom a curfew order has been made, *(j)* applying to the court to prevent a non-resident parent disposing of a property and *(k)* making administrative orders disqualifying non-resident parents from holding a driving licence or travel authorisation such as passports or both without the need to apply to the courts; and on what date the CSA gained the power to impose each type of sanction. [320870]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 8 March 2010]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many times the Child Support Agency (CSA) has imposed a sanction of (a) deduction of earnings orders, (b) deduction from bank account, (c) seizure and sale of goods by bailiffs, (d) registering a charging order against assets, (e) obtaining a third party order to freeze assets in the bank accounts to which non-resident parties are entitled, (f) disqualifying the non-resident parent from driving, (g) gaining a warrant committing the non-resident parent to prison, (h) applying to a magistrates' court to impose a curfew for non-resident parents, (i) applying to the courts to search the non-resident parents against whom a curfew order has been made, (j) applying to the court to prevent a non-resident parent disposing of a property and (k) making administrative orders disqualifying non-resident parents from holding a driving licence or travel authorisation such as passports or both without the need to apply to the courts; and on what date the CSA gained the power to impose each type of sanction. [320870]

There have been 65,535 new deduction of earning orders/requests set up in England, Wales and Scotland in the 12 months to October 2009. Deductions of earning orders were a feature of the original Child Support Act 1991 and have been available to the CSA since its establishment in 1993.

In the period between August 2009 and October 2009, there have been 125 cases where a deduction order from a bank account has been sanctioned. Sanctioned has been interpreted as the application to freeze funds in the bank account of a non-resident parent. This power came into force in August 2009.

In England and Wales, there have been 17,730 distress actions (bailiff actions) in the 12 months to October 2009. In Scotland, in the 12 months to October 2009 there were 255 attachments. These powers were a feature of the original Child Support Act 1991 and have been available to the CSA since its establishment in 1993.

In the 12 months to October 2009, there have been 2,995 charging orders in England and Wales. In Scotland, in the 12 months to October 2009 there were 1,395 Bills of Inhibition. Charging Orders were a feature of the original Child Support Act 1991 and have been available to the CSA since its establishment in 1993.

There have been 2,025 third party debt orders to freeze assets in England and Wales in the 12 months to October 2009. In Scotland, in the 12 months to October 2009 there were 785 arrestments. Third Party Debt Orders were a feature of the original Child Support Act 1991 and have been available to the CSA since its establishment in 1993.

When the CSA commences court proceedings for wilful failure and culpable neglect to pay child maintenance the court decides what sentence shall be imposed. Of such proceedings started across England, Wales and Scotland, 820 resulted in suspended committal sentences and 40 committal sentences. This power was a feature of the original Child Support Act 1991 and has been available to the CSA since its establishment in 1993. There were also 70 suspended driving licence disqualification sentences and 5 actual driving licence disqualification sentences in the 12 months to October 2009. This power was introduced by the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000; and was brought into effect in April 2001.

Powers to apply to a Court to impose a curfew on a non resident parent, search a non-resident parent against whom a curfew order has been made, prevent a non resident parent disposing of property or using administrative orders for driving licence disqualification or travel authorisation have not yet come into effect.

Further information relating to the Agency's use of enforcement powers is published in the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS). The latest copy of which is available in the House of Commons library, or via the internet at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/statistics.html

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many thefts from her Department have been recorded in the last two years. [318989]

Jonathan Shaw: In accordance with guidance from HM Treasury, the Department maintains records of certain high-value property that it owns, such as specialist equipment and plant and machinery. In the past two years, no items recorded on the register have been reported as stolen.

Employment Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 97 of the pre-Budget report 2009, what temporary employment programmes will be phased out by 2012-13; and what estimate she has made of the likely savings to her Department in *(a)* 2012-13 and *(b)* each of the following three years. [313271]

Helen Goodman: As set out in "Building Britain's Recovery, Achieving Full Employment", in the projections of the public finances, the Government uses a National Audit Office audited assumption for claimant unemployment. If unemployment was to follow the latest assumption at the time of the pre-Budget report, this would imply savings of approximately £10 billion over the next five years from lower benefit spending alone, compared to the assumption at the time of the Budget.

We will continue to review the support that is available for jobseekers, and decisions on the Department's future expenditure limits and spending allocations will be taken at the spending review.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people had their claims for jobseeker's allowance processed in *(a)* five or fewer days, *(b)* between six and 10 days; *(c)* between 11 and 16 days, *(d)* between 17 and 21 days and *(e)* more than 21 days in (i) December 2009 and (ii) January 2010. [316962]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

Jobcentre Plus measures performance on the processing of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claims through the Average Actual Clearance Time (AACT) target. The current target for 2009-10 is 11.5 days. This time is calculated across an average of all the claims cleared in any given month looking at the date the customer first contacted Jobcentre Plus or the customers first day of unemployment, whichever is the later. The end date is the date a formal decision is made on the claim and a notification is issued to the customer on entitlement.

In addition to collecting AACT data our benefit processing system also gathers useful management information on the volumes of claims processed within the time bands you have requested.

The following table outlines the number of JSA claims processed in December 2009 and January 2010 in both number and percentage terms. The final JSA AACT in month performance for December was 9.0 days and for January was 9.1 days. Current Year to date performance for the 2009-10 performance year is 9.8 days.

Month	*December 2009*	*January 2010*
JSA Processed in 5 days	99,342	113,890
JSA Processed in 10 days	184,131	223,551
JSA Processed in 16 days	225,299	276,843
JSA Processed in 21 days	239,639	293,821
JSA Processed in 22+ days	17,275	20,068
1-5 days	38.70%	36.30%
6-10 days	33.00%	34.90%
11-16 days	16.00%	17.00%
17-21 days	5.60%	5.40%
22+ days	6.70%	6.40%

Source:
Management and Information System Programme (MISP) 11.02.10

Please note that the figures provided in the table indicate cumulative figures not stand alone figures for those time bands. For instance, those cleared within 10 days include the claims that were also cleared within 5 days. The only stand alone figures are those cases cleared within the 22+ days timeband.

I hope this information is helpful.

Lighthouse Project: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding her Department has provided to the Lighthouse project in each year since it was set up. [320715]

Jonathan Shaw: The Lighthouse project was a charitable organization located in Halesowen and Wednesbury in the West Midlands offering drop-in advice and a wide range of support services to the local community. Jobcentre Plus has not been involved in any of their funding. Their local authority funding was withdrawn and the Lighthouse project closed late in 2009.

Nuclear Submarines: Safety

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date her Department received the request from the Health and Safety Executive to review the radius of the emergency pre-planning zone around a berthed nuclear submarine. [321373]

Mr. Kidney: I have been asked to reply.

The Health and Safety Executive is responsible for determining the radius of a Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) around a berthed nuclear-powered submarine. The decision to reduce the DEPZ from 2 km to 1.5 km was based on a hazard assessment for such submarines that the Ministry of Defence submitted to the HSE in February 2008. The HSE completed a review of the assessment and informed the Ministry of Defence of the outcome of that review in December 2008.

Pensions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her most recent estimate is of the number of people who have not made sufficient savings for their retirement; and what such estimates her Department has made in the last three years. [321496]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 10 March 2010]:* The Department for Work and Pensions estimates that, based on Pension Commission benchmark replacement rates, about seven million people are not saving sufficiently for their retirement. It is precisely to address this issue that the Government have legislated to establish NEST, the National Employment Savings Trust, and introduce automatic enrolment into a workplace pension with a guaranteed contribution from the employer and the Government from 2012

This estimate was published in the May 2006 White Paper, 'Security in Retirement: Towards a New Pension System'. No further updates of this figure have been made in the last three years by DWP.

Social Security Advisory Committee

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 78W, on Social Security Advisory Committee: finance, how much the Social Security Advisory Committee spent *(a)* in total, *(b)* on staffing costs and *(c)* on running costs in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07, (iii) 2007-08, and (iv) 2008-09; and how much expenditure she expects that Committee to incur on each type of cost in 2009-10. [322054]

Jim Knight: The information is in the following table:

£

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]
Total spend	331,700	396,900	390,700	457,900	456,200
Staffing costs	232,600	311,600	278,900	257,500	289,600
Non-staffing costs	99,100	85,300	111,800	200,400	166,600

[1] Estimate.

Notes:

1. All figures rounded to the nearest £100.
2. The SSAC is the UK advisory body on social security and related matters, such as links with the labour market and wider social welfare issues. It performs a mandatory scrutiny of most proposals for making the regulations on those issues. Thus, much of the Department for Work and Pensions' policy and legislative proposals—including the progressing of the welfare reform agenda—comes before the Committee.
3. The significant increase in non-staffing costs in 2008-09 mainly reflects the Committee's decision, in the light of rising workloads, to deploy Members and external researchers more intensively to augment the work carried out by the SSAC Secretariat in that year. It also reflects the Committee's costs in undertaking a public appointment exercise in 2008-09; no such exercise took place in the previous year.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much and what proportion of known fraud debt stock was fraud debt her Department recovered in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [316098]

Helen Goodman: The following table provides data on the value of fraud classified debt recoveries and the proportion of those recoveries against the fraud debt stock. The information is only available from 2005-06.

	Fraud classified debt recoveries[1] (£ million)	*Proportion of recoveries against Fraud Debt Stock (percentage)*
2005-06	16.7	6.1
2006-07	21.9	7.6
2007-08	24.7	6.7
2008-09	23.9	6.0

Source:
Shared Services Debt Manager via Business Objects computer system. This is based on available Management Information, and does not form Official Statistics.

Recoveries are now at an all time high. Since 2005-06, the Department has increased overall recoveries from £180 million per year to over £280 million.

The NAO recognised our improved performance in its report 'Department for Work and Pensions, Management of Benefit Overpayment Debt', May 2009.

As a result of the Department's Debt Management's strategy a greater proportion of outstanding fraud debts are being actively managed each year. Currently, for 90 per cent. of customers with fraud debts, repayment is either being made, being negotiated, or suspended due to inability to repay, e.g. in prison.

We always pursue repayment. For income related benefits overpayment recovery is subject, by legislation, to a maximum rate of recovery. For other benefits the maximum deduction rate is set administratively at one third of the personal rate of the benefit or pension concerned. We will continue to recover this money over the coming years.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her latest estimate is of the monetary value of benefit fraud committed by people living outside the UK; and if she will make a statement. [316398]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 8 March 2010]:* The amount wrongly paid to customers who are normally resident in United Kingdom but claimed benefits while abroad for longer than the rules allow is available in table 6.1 in the National Statistics report "Fraud and Error in the Benefits System: April 2008 to March 2009" a copy of which is available in the Library. The report can also be accessed online at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd2/fem/fem_apr08_mar09.pdf

To help us reduce this type of fraud we are increasing the number of countries with which we have arrangements for closer working and data sharing.

We are also reminding people in the latest Targeting Fraud campaign and in leaflets of their responsibility to tell us if they are going abroad.

Unemployment Benefits

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claiming *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* income support, *(c)* incapacity benefit and *(d)* employment and support allowance have been sanctioned, broken down by the number of such sanctions received. [313161]

Angela Eagle: Data on the number of people claiming income support, incapacity benefit, and employment and support allowance who have been sanctioned are not available. The data that are available for jobseeker's allowance can be found in the following table.

Number of sanctions applied (adverse decision), by number of individuals (thousands) April 2000 to October 2009

	Number of individuals[1]
Varied length	714.14
Fixed length	203.67
Entitlement decision	1072.09

[1] Individuals and decisions based figures are rounded to the nearest ten and displayed in thousands. Some additional disclosure control has been applied.
Notes:
1. This information is published at the Department for Work and Pensions website:
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp
2. Data prior to April 2000 are not available.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: JSA Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics
Database.

This amounts to an average of 96,000 sanctions and 112,000 adverse entitlement decisions per year, respectively 10 per cent. and 12 per cent. of the average JSA caseload.

CABINET OFFICE

Business

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many small businesses there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* Eastern England and *(c)* Southend West constituency in each year since 1997. [321899]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many small businesses there were in a) England, b) Eastern England and c) Southend West constituency in each year since 1997 (321899).

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available for 2002 onwards from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

Information on the number of active enterprises by parliamentary constituency is only available from 2004 onwards. The table below contains the latest statistics available on active enterprises with less than 50 employment for England, East of England and Southend West.

Active enterprises with less than 50 employment 2002-08

	England	*East of England*	*Southend West*
2002	1,804,635	210,510	n/a
2003	1,833,435	213,670	n/a
2004	1,854,375	216,995	3,005
2005	1,871,830	219,080	3,030
2006	1,891,240	221,605	3,090
2007	1,953,335	228,505	3,120
2008	1,990,465	232,590	3,155

n/a = Not available.

Civil Servants: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what consideration she gave to the introduction of changes to the Civil Service Compensation scheme to apply to new entrants to the civil service. [322437]

Tessa Jowell: My statement of 3 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 11-13WS announced changes to the Civil Service Compensation scheme and the process which led up to those changes. Some respondents to the consultation exercise suggested that the changes should only apply to new entrants. However, the package agreed with five of the six main civil service unions applies to all staff, with existing staff covered by transitional provisions.

Civil Servants: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many full-time equivalent civil servants have been employed in *(a)* City of York and *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber in each year since 1997. [321692]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 16 March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many full-time equivalent civil servants have been employed in (a) City of York and (b) Yorkshire and the Humber in each year since 1997. (321692).

In order to provide the information requested for York, ad hoc analysis has been required. This analysis is based on the Mandate collection (1997-2006) which provides approximately 90 per cent coverage of Civil Service departments and agencies and the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (2007-2009) which provides 100 per cent coverage. For years prior to 2003 coverage is lower.

The data provided for Yorkshire and the Humber is based on the Mandate collection alongside departmental returns (1997-2005) and the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (2007-2009) both of which provide 100 per cent coverage of Civil Service departments and agencies. Data for 2006 is based on the Mandate collection only and provides approximately 90 per cent coverage.

The requested data for York and Yorkshire and the Humber are attached at Annex A.

Annex A: Civil service employment in York and Yorkshire and the Humber[1] permanent employees

													Full-time equivalent
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
York[2]	1,560	1,460	1,490	1,630	1,760	2140	2420	2,760	2850	2,750	2,850	2,860	2,970
Yorkshire and the Humber[3]	32,270	32,010	32,030	33,060	33,890	35,050	35,570	39,140	38,670	34,500	36,330	36,370	36,580

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, and numbers less than five are represented by" —".
[2] 1997-2006 Mandate only—incomplete coverage of civil service departments. 2007-09 Annual Civil Service Employment survey.
[3] 1997-2005 Mandate and departmental returns. 2006 Mandate only—incomplete coverage of civil service departments. 2007-09 Annual Civil Service Employment Survey.

Source:
Mandate collection (1997-2006)
Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (2007-09)

Deaths: Cancer

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 159W, on death: cancer, for what reasons age-standardised mortality rates for 2008 are *(a)* unavailable by parliamentary constituency and *(b)* available for primary care trusts; when she expects the 2008 data for each parliamentary constituency to be made available; and if she will make a statement. [322228]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 16 March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking pursuant to the Answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 159W, on death: cancer, for what reasons age-standardised mortality rates for 2008 are (a) unavailable by parliamentary constituency and (b) available for primary care trusts; when she expects the 2008 data broken down by parliamentary constituency to be made available. (322228)

Calculation of mortality rates requires both the number of deaths and an estimate of the population for the same area and time period. Mortality rates for (a) parliamentary constituencies could not be calculated for 2008 as mid-year population estimates for parliamentary constituencies in 2008 were not yet available. The equivalent rates for (b) primary care organisations could be calculated as ONS published mid-year population estimates for primary care organisations in October 2009. The 2008 mid-year population estimates for parliamentary constituencies are due to be published in July/August 2010.

Deaths: Ovarian Cancer

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many women died of ovarian cancer in East Lancashire in each year since 2005. [322222]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many women died of ovarian cancer in East Lancashire in each year since 2005. (322222)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where ovarian cancer was the underlying cause of death, for women in East Lancashire Teaching primary care trust from 2005 to 2008 (latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths where ovarian cancer[1] was the underlying cause of death in females, East Lancashire Teaching primary care trust[2], 2005-08[3]

	Deaths
2005	21
2006	28
2007	20
2008	26

[1] Cause of death for ovarian cancer was defined using International Statistical Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD 10) code C56.
[2] Based on boundaries as of February 2010. Renamed East Lancashire Teaching PCT on 1 May 2007 (formerly known as East Lancashire PCT).
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Employment

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she made of the number of people in employment who were *(a)* UK born, *(b)* non-UK born, *(c)* a UK national and *(d)* a non-UK national in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available; what the change in the level of employment was between those years; and for what proportion of the net change in employment each of those groups accounted between those years. [322169]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the number of people in employment who were (a) UK born, (b) non-UK born, (c) a UK national and (d) a non-UK national in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available; what the change in the level of employment was between those years; and for what proportion of the net change in employment each of those groups accounted between those years. (322169)

The requested information can be found in the following tables. The UK and non-UK estimates do not sum exactly to the totals, as the totals include some people who did not state their country of birth and nationality.

Number of people in employment by country of birth (thousand, not seasonally adjusted)

	1997	*2009*	*Difference between 1997 and 2009*	*Proportion of net change in total employment (percentage)*
UK	24,547	25,236	689	28
Non-UK	1,975	3,735	1,760	72
Total	26,523	28,978	2,455	100

Number of people in employment by nationality (thousand, not seasonally adjusted)

	1997	*2009*	*Difference between 1997 and 2009*	*Proportion of net change in total employment (percentage)*
UK	25,551	26,673	1,122	46
Non-UK	971	2,300	1,329	54
Total	26,523	28,978	2,455	100

As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) are subject to a margin of uncertainty. Indications of the sampling variability of LFS aggregate estimates are provided in the Labour Market Statistical Bulletin.

Government Departments: Electronic Warfare

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment she has made of the threat to the Government's critical infrastructure of an electromagnetic pulse strike caused *(a)* deliberately and *(b)* through solar activity. [321761]

Angela E. Smith: The Government's Cyber Security Strategy of the United Kingdom, published alongside and reflected in the National Security Strategy update of June 2009, considers a number of methods of cyber attack, including those that generate high levels of radio frequency power that can damage or disrupt unprotected electronics. It also outlines the new governance structures and workstreams which are now building on existing work to take forward the Government's plan for reducing the impact on and vulnerability of the UK's interests from cyber attacks.

The Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) provides advice on electronic or cyber protective security measures to the businesses and organisations that comprise the UK's critical national infrastructure, including public utilities, companies and banks. CPNI also runs a CERT (Computer Emergency Response Team) service which responds to reported attacks on private sector networks. In addition, the Communications Electronic Security Group (CESG) provides Government Departments with advice and guidance on how to protect against, detect and mitigate various types of cyber attack.

It would not be in the interests of national security to publish information about specific vulnerabilities, assessments or protective measures relating to electromagnetic pulse attack.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for what reasons the threat of an electromagnetic pulse strike caused *(a)* deliberately and *(b)* through solar activity was not included in the Government's Cyber Security Strategy. [321764]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

The threat to the UK's cyber security from the effects of an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) is specifically highlighted in the fourth bullet of paragraph 2.8 on page 14 of the Cyber Security Strategy of the United Kingdom published in June 2009, referred to by its alternative (non-nuclear) title of High Power Radio Frequency (HPRF) transmission. The Cyber Security Strategy did not sub-classify the origin of HPRF threats into solar or deliberate.

Lord Ashcroft

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) if she will make available to the Public Administration Select Committee all papers and other documents relating to the undertaking given by Lord Ashcroft prior to his inclusion in the list of recommendations for a peerage; [322318]

(2) what investigations her Department is conducting into the undertakings given by Lord Ashcroft prior to his inclusion in the list of recommendations for a peerage. [322319]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Cardiff, South and Penarth (Alun Michael), the hon. Member for High Peak (Tom Levitt) and the right hon. Member for Oldham, West and Royton (Mr. Meacher) on 12 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 483W.

Personal Income: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average household disposable income was in York in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the latest 12 months for which figures are available. [322110]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average household disposable income was in York in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the latest 12 months for which figures are available. (322110).

Table 1 shows the average net weekly equivalised household income for the City of York Parliamentary constituency area, both before and after housing costs, for the years 2007-08, the latest available, and 2001-02, the earliest period for which data are available, in current and 2007-08 prices. These figures are based on experimental small area statistics published by the ONS.

These estimates, as with any involving sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: Average net weekly equivalised household income in the City of York parliamentary constituency area, 2001-02 and 2007-08 [1, 2]

£

(a) In current prices[4]	*Mean income (before housing costs)*[3]	*Mean income (after housing costs)*[3]
2001-02	360	330
2007-08	470	380
(b) In 2007-08 prices		
2001-02	410	370
2007-08	470	380

[1] Incomes are presented net of income tax payments, National Insurance contributions and Council tax

[2] Figures rounded to the nearest £10

[3] Housing costs include rent (gross of housing benefit), water charges, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance, ground rent and service charges.

[4] Current prices are the prices as they were at the time of the survey. For example, data for 2001-02 are in 2001-02 prices and data for 2007-08 are in 2007-08 prices

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Unemployment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 995-6W, on unemployment, how many economically inactive people of working age who were long-term sick or disabled wanted employment in *(a)* each of the last 10 years and *(b)* each of the last eight quarters. [321641]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many economically inactive people of working age who were long-term sick or disabled wanted employment in (a) each of the last 10 years and (b) each of the last eight quarters. (321641)

Estimates of economic inactivity are available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). In accordance with the International Labour Organization (ILO) definition, people are classed as economically inactive if they are neither in employment nor unemployed. The estimates provided comprise those who have not been looking for work in the last four weeks, but who say they would like a regular paid job, plus those who have been looking for work but who were unable to start within two weeks.

These estimates are published in the Labour Market Statistical Bulletin Historical Supplement which is available on the National Statistics website via the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/LMS_FR_HS/WebTable13.xls

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. Indications of the sampling variability of LFS aggregate estimates are provided in the Statistical Bulletin.

Economically inactive, long-term sick or disabled people of working age[1] *who want a job*[2]*, United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted*

	Total (thousand)
October to December quarter:	
2000	744
2001	753
2002	752
2003	670
2004	634
2005	615
2006	611
2007	618
Latest eight quarters:	
2008	
January to March	664
April to June	658
July to September	653
October to December	628
2009	
January to March	599
April to June	618
July to September	659
October to December	676

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.

[2] Those who had not been looking for work in the four weeks prior to interview but who said they would like a regular paid job, plus those who had been looking for work but had been unable to start within two weeks.

Source:

ONS Labour Force Survey

Unemployment Benefits

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for what reason the time series data produced by the Office for National Statistics on the number of 18 to 24 year olds claiming jobseeker's allowance before April 1997 are unavailable; what data are available on the number of young people who claimed unemployment benefits before that date; and by what mechanisms data on numbers of unemployment benefit claimants before and after April 1997 may be compared. [322105]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 16 March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for what reason the time series data produced by the Office for National Statistics on the number of 18 to 24 year olds claiming jobseeker's allowance before April 1997 is unavailable; what data are available on the number of young people who claimed unemployment benefits before that date; and by what mechanisms data on numbers of unemployment benefit claimants before and after April 1997 may be compared. (322105)

In October 1996 Unemployment Benefit and unemployment-related Income Support were merged into a single Jobseeker's Allowance. This introduced discontinuities into the Claimant Count series. Adjustments for discontinuities to the series were estimated by sex and by region, however, these adjustments were not further broken down to cover age and duration breakdowns. Consequently age and duration series prior to April 1997 are not consistent with series after that date.

Two of the main factors influencing the decision to not make adjustments for age and duration were the high proportion of claims for which there was no age and duration information available, around 10% of all claims in the early 1990's and the unavailability of similar breakdowns of Northern Ireland data prior to January 1996, due to the use of separate administrative systems.

Information on the number of 18 to 24 year olds claiming unemployment benefits is available prior to 1997, stretching back to 1985. However, this information only covers geographic areas within Great Britain, is subject to discontinuities mentioned above, does not include clerical claims and is not available on a seasonally adjusted basis.

As a result of the adjustments mentioned above, seasonally adjusted Claimant Count series, by sex and by region, prior to April 1997 can be considered comparable with those after that date. However, detailed breakdowns, including those for age groups should only be compared in the context of the discontinuities arising from changes in administrative and benefits systems.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what liabilities the Homes and Communities Agency has in relation to rent subsidy for tenants signed up to the Rent to HomeBuy scheme for the financial year *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [321561]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency provide capital grant to support the development or acquisition of properties. The grant is paid at start on site and on completion of a scheme. No further financial liabilities exist.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many Rent to HomeBuy tenants are expected to purchase a share in their home in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and what estimate has been made of the costs of the scheme in each of those years; [321563]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2010, *Official Report,* columns 1127-28W, on affordable housing: finance, whether the allocations to the Rent to HomeBuy scheme assume that 100 per cent. of tenants will purchase a share in their home. [321582]

John Healey: The Rent to HomeBuy product is designed to assist people into homeownership and it is expected that tenants will purchase a share of their property during or at the end of the agreed intermediate period. It is recognised that some tenants' personal circumstances may mean that moving into shared ownership is not suitable for them at that time.

The Homes and Communities Agency does not make assumptions about future purchases when making allocation decisions for this product.

The HCA, based on information as at the end of February 2010, is currently forecasting expenditure on approved Rent to HomeBuy schemes in 2010-11 and 2011-12 of £52 million and £27 million respectively.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Homes and Communities Agency grant for Rent to HomeBuy properties is paid *(a)* at the start or *(b)* on an ongoing basis during an intermediate rent tenancy. [321565]

John Healey: Capital grant is provided through the National Affordable Housing Programme, for the provision of a property. Grant is paid for new build schemes in two tranches, with part of the grant paid at start on site and the remainder on completion of the scheme. Where a property is bought by or transferred to an Investment Partner as an existing unit 100 per cent. of the grant is paid on completion. There is no further grant paid after the development is complete.

The Rent to HomeBuy scheme may be either a new build scheme or acquisition of an existing property.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2010, *Official Report,* columns 1127-28W, on affordable housing: finance, what estimate he has made of the percentage of the funding allocated to Rent to HomeBuy for 2010-11 which will be used for *(a)* existing tenants' rent subsidies and *(b)* new completions. [321581]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency through their National Affordable Housing Programme funds the provision of new affordable housing units under the Rent to HomeBuy scheme. All funding in 2010-11 will be used to provide new affordable housing either through new build or acquisition. No funding through the National Affordable Housing Programme will be used for existing tenants' rent subsidies.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps the Government has taken to increase the provision of family-sized affordable homes. [321606]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) is aiming to create cohesive and sustainable communities including the provision of larger family sized homes. As part of the HCA's Corporate Plan we have also set them a target that 30 per cent. of their social rented homes completions through the National Affordable Housing Programme in 2009-10 should be for homes with three or more bedrooms. This target is set to increase to 33 per cent. in 2010-11.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable family-sized homes have been built in each year since 1997. [321607]

Mr. Ian Austin: The number of affordable homes built in each year since 1997 are available on the CLG website in Live Table 1009. Statistics are not held centrally that identify which of these are 'family-sized' or occupied by families.

Information in respect of the distribution of affordable homes provided through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme by the number of bedrooms has been deposited in the Library of the

House in response to the question I answered from the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 15 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 667W.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department plans to take to assist local authorities to increase provision of family-sized affordable homes. [321608]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Local Authority New Build programme is providing over £500 million for the direct development of new affordable homes to rent by local authorities. Funding has now been approved to 87 local authorities to build over 4,000 homes. If all proceed to completion over 40 per cent. will be homes with three bedrooms or more.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of the pathfinder areas in increasing provision of family-sized affordable homes. [321609]

Mr. Ian Austin: The overcrowding pathfinder programme has enabled local authorities to develop effective schemes that support under-occupiers who wish to downsize and to therefore free up family-sized affordable homes.

The majority of pathfinders have reported an increase in the number of family-sized homes being made available to let.

AXA Group

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings Ministers in his Department have had with AXA and its subsidiaries since 2005. [322028]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 12 March 2010]*: Since the formation of Communities and Local Government in 2006 no Ministers have met with AXA. Information prior to this is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Information on any meetings with AXA's subsidiaries could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Council Tax: Newcastle upon Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties there are in each council tax band in the city of Newcastle upon Tyne; and how many in each such band are *(a)* empty and *(b)* in each exemption class. [321042]

Barbara Follett: Details of the number of dwellings and the number of long-term empty dwellings by council tax band in Newcastle upon Tyne are shown in the following table.

Data on dwellings that are exempt from council tax (including short-term empty dwellings) are not collected by individual council tax band.

Council tax band	*Number of dwellings*	*Long-term empty dwellings*
A	71,269	1,157
B	18,065	105
C	17,596	125
D	8,200	68
E	4,007	26
F	1,916	17
G	1,491	19
H	117	5
Total	122,661	1,522

The data are as reported on the "Calculation of Council Tax Base for Formula Grant Purposes" (CTB) form completed by all the billing authorities in England as at October 2009.

Council Tax: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much on average has been charged in respect of band D council tax in City of York in each year since 2002-03 expressed in *(a)* cash terms and *(b)* constant prices; [322092]

(2) which local authorities in Yorkshire and the Humber had a lower average band D council tax than City of York in each year since 2002-03; and what the level of band D council tax was in each of those authorities in each such year. [322093]

Barbara Follett: Details of the authorities in the Yorkshire and the Humber region that had a lower average Band D council tax than York in each year since 2002-03, and the level of Band D council tax (in £) in each of those years, is shown in the following table. Also shown in the table is the average Band D council tax (in £) in York in the same period expressed in *(a)* cash terms and *(b)* in real terms at April 2009 prices.

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
West Yorkshire combined fire authority	30	39	42	44	46	48	50	51
South Yorkshire combined fire authority	41	44	47	49	51	54	56	58
North Yorkshire combined fire authority	—	—	51	53	54	56	59	61
Humberside combined fire authority	—	—	61	64	67	70	74	77
Hambleton	74	82	89	96	100	106	113	117
West Yorkshire police authority	76	89	102	107	112	118	124	127
South Yorkshire police authority	74	94	103	108	113	119	125	129
Humberside police authority	95	113	130	136	142	150	156	162
Craven	142	154	160	168	176	183	184	192
North Yorkshire police authority	89	156	172	176	180	185	193	199

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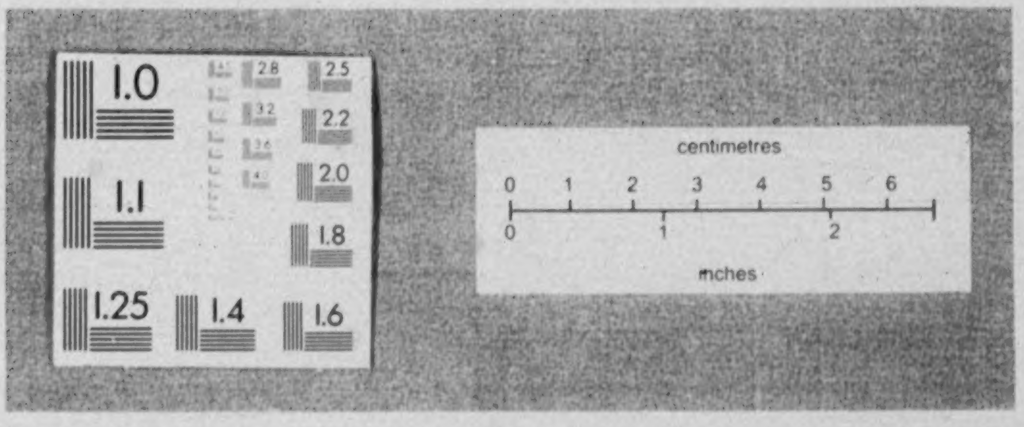

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Selby	156	163	168	174	178	185	192	200
Ryedale	166	169	176	182	187	194	202	208
Richmondshire	163	172	180	191	193	198	203	208
Scarborough	154	168	183	191	198	206	215	222
Harrogate	159	172	185	193	202	215	220	228
North Yorkshire	733	817	847	857	890	944	985	1,027
York (cash)	[illegible]	832	856	899	948	990	1,037	1,071
York (at April 2009 prices)	945	971	975	992	1,021	1,020	1,025	1,071

The data are not strictly comparable as (a) not all authorities were in existence in all years and (b) responsibilities and functions vary between authorities.

The data are collected on the annual budget requirement (BR) forms submitted to Communities and Local Government by all billing and precepting authorities in England.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on office refurbishments in each year since its inception. [320475]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government has spent £17 million, including VAT, on office refurbishments since its inception in May 2006. The projects are part of the department's estates efficiency strategy, resulting in running cost efficiencies of £8 million per annum.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 632W, on departmental information officers, what the *(a)* job title, *(b)* division and *(c)* responsibilities are of each of the eight members of staff who work full-time on communications who are not listed in the White Book. [320910]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is set out in the following table:

(a) Job title	*Grade*	*(b) Division*	*(c) Responsibilities*
Communications manager, planning reform	Senior executive officer	Planning directorate communications and stakeholder engagement	Stakeholder communications
Strategic communications manager	Grade 6	Local government research, strategy and communications	Communications strategy for the directorate
Communications manager	Senior information officer (0.6)	Community action and third sector communications and stakeholder engagement division	Communications and stakeholder engagement activity and strategy for the programme
Communications Lead FiReControl	Grade 7	FiReControl	Communications and stakeholder management adviser for the FiReControl project in Fire and Resilience Directorate
Head of communications and stakeholder engagement	Grade 7	Fire and resilience directorate	Communications and stakeholder engagement for the FRD directorate
Housing communications and stakeholder engagement team leader	Grade 7	Housing shared policy and support	Housing communications and stakeholder engagement
Devolved web manager	Higher executive officer	Housing shared policy and support	Manager, editor and publisher of all content, data and publications to the housing section of the communities and local government website
e-publications manager	Executive officer	Housing shared policy and support	Electronic publisher/editor for the housing section of the communities and local government website

Flood Control: Finance

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have made submissions to his Department for funding under the Bellwin scheme as a result of the recent severe weather conditions. [322304]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 15 March 2010]*: The following local authorities have registered an intention to apply for Bellwin assistance as a result of the bad weather in December 2009 and January 2010:

City of York council

Herefordshire council

North Yorkshire county council

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

West Berkshire council

Housing: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many architectural assessments of each Kickstart development were made; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such assessment. [321558]

John Healey: The Kickstart projects architectural merits are dealt with as part of the Building for Life assessment.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what scores were given to each Kickstart development during its first assessment; for what reason each was subsequently re-scored; and what score was later applied to each development. [321599]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) commissioned the Commission for Architecture and the Build Environment (CABE) to carry out Building for Life assessments on Kickstart round one schemes. The breakdown of Building for Life scores under Kickstart round one can be found on the HCA's website. The Building for Life scores were only part of the total design assessment. For the lower scoring schemes, the HCA supplemented these assessments with further information to enable the suitability of bids to be considered in their wider community and local authority context.

The HCA and CABE will produce detailed reports on all aspects of the delivery of rounds one and two, including design, following the conclusion of round two. These reports will include details of the design assessments undertaken.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in Birmingham have received assistance through *(a)* the Mortgage Rescue Scheme, *(b)* the Homeowners Mortgage Scheme and *(c)* Support for Mortgage Interest. [321567]

John Healey: Mortgage Rescue scheme summary monitoring statistics are published on a quarterly basis on the Department's website. Statistics for the October to December 2009 period were published on 11 February 2010 and can be accessed using the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics

Quarterly figures reported by local authorities from January to December 2009 are provided in a table which has been placed in the Library.

For management information on Homeowners Mortgage Support I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1297W. This information is not monitored at local authority level.

Help is provided towards the interest on mortgages (known as support for mortgage interest (SMI)) as part of income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, income-related employment and support allowance and pension credit.

The following table provides figures for Birmingham local authority.

Table 1: Income support, jobseeker's allowance (IB) and pension credit claimants who are receiving help with mortgage interest in Birmingham local authority, August 2009

Benefit	*Number*
IS	3,000
JSA (IB)	1,100
PC	2,300

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures have been up-rated using 5 per cent. proportions against 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study totals.
3. No estimate is available yet for the number of employment and support allowance (income-related) cases.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample.

Caseload—number of claimants

Pension credit was introduced on 6 October 2003 and replaced minimum income guarantee (income support for people aged 60 or over). The vast majority of people who were previously in receipt of the minimum income guarantee transferred to pension credit in October 2003.

Pension credit is claimed on a household basis and therefore the number of people that pension credit helps is the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are also claiming.

The best statistics on benefits are now derived from 100 per cent. data sources. However, the 5 per cent. sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources. In this case reliable data for mortgage interest support are not available from the 100 per cent. data so the 5 per cent. data have been used. The latest of which is August 2009.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1152W, on non-domestic rates: ports, what assessment has been made of the effect of the ending of prescription of rating *(a)* on the work of the Valuation Office Agency, *(b)* businesses within the prescribed ports and *(c)* the system of rating businesses separately. [321733]

Barbara Follett: There has been no assessment made of the effect of the ending of prescribed rating on the work of the Valuation Office Agency. The impact on businesses occupying properties subject to prescribed rating, like the port authorities, was that their rateable value was ascertained by the same rules of assessment that apply to all other non-domestic properties instead of by a prescribed formula.

The ending of prescribed rating did not affect decisions on whether or not property occupied by other businesses within ports should be assessed separately for non-domestic rates. The principles concerning separate rateability where there is "exclusive occupation" and "paramount control" are long established. The leading case on the subject is a House of Lords decision from as far back as 1936—Westminster Council *v.* Southern Railway Company and W.H. Smith and Son.

The review of ports by the Valuation Office Agency was done to ensure that all individual business properties within and outside ports are rated fairly and that the burden of contributions to funding local government is shared equitably amongst businesses around the country.

The Government have listened to the concerns of businesses with significant and unexpected backdated bills, including some businesses within ports. It has legislated to enable such bills to be repaid over an unprecedented eight years rather than in a single instalment, helping affected businesses to manage the impact on their cash flows during the downturn by reducing the amount they are required to pay now by 87[illegible] per cent.

As at October 8 2009, local authorities have reported that ratepayers occupying 221 properties within ports had fully discharged their backdated liability and ratepayers occupying a further 200 business properties within ports had been granted a schedule of payments.

Property Development: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on Planning Policy Statement 25, on flooding; and if he will make a statement. [321866]

John Healey: We have received over 100 representations in response to the consultation proposals published in August 2009 for making some limited amendments to Planning Policy Statement 25, Development and Flood Risk. The great majority of these responses have expressed support for the proposed amendments. We expect to publish shortly a summary of the consultation responses, and a revised version of PPS25 with refinements to further improve the policy's implementation and effectiveness.

Social Rented Housing: Overcrowding

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent assessment is of the appropriateness of statutory standards on overcrowding in social housing. [321605]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government are committed to addressing overcrowding and to updating the statutory standards.

The £15 million overcrowding pathfinder programme is helping both to develop effective strategies for tackling overcrowding, and to build evidence to support updating of the statutory standards.

Social Rented Housing: Sheffield

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes in Sheffield are still awaiting completion of Decent Homes work for which funding has been allocated; and how much such funding has been allocated. [322587]

John Healey: As at 1 April 2009, 10,057 local authority homes in Sheffield were reported to be non-decent. For 2009-10, the figures allocated to Sheffield for spending on decent homes is £76,007,000 for the ALMO, £6,300,000 from Local Authority Supported Capital Expenditure (LASCE) and £27,600,000 from the Major Repairs Allowance (MRA), although not all the LASCE and MRA is spent on decent homes. The figure for 2010-11 for the ALMO funding is £45,702,000 but we do not have the final figures for LASCE and MRA.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent under the Decent Homes programme in Sheffield through *(a)* Sheffield Homes and *(b)* other housing associations to date. [322588]

John Healey: Sheffield Homes came into operation in 2005. For the period 2005 to 2009, Sheffield city council reported £585.5 million capital expenditure on their HRA stock. Not all of this will relate to Decent Homes.

Housing associations have largely funded decent homes improvements through their own resources, and my Department does not collect information about housing association investment to deliver the Decent Homes standard in their own stock.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes in Sheffield have been improved under the Decent Homes programme to date. [322589]

John Healey: Between 2001 and 2009 Sheffield's non-decent dwellings reduced from 47,700 in 2001 to 10,057 in 2009. Sheffield city council have forecast that the number of non-decent homes will be reduced to 5,044 by the end of this year. The actual number of dwellings improved will be greater than the difference between these figures, since it will include both dwellings that were non-decent in 2001 and others that have become non-decent and been improved in the period since then.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much money Sheffield city council has been allocated for building new social housing in the last two years; and what estimate he has made of the number of houses which will be provided with such funding. [322590]

John Healey: The following table shows the funds allocated for affordable housing in Sheffield to registered social landlords and other providers through the Homes and Communities Agency's National Affordable Housing Programme for 2008-09 and 2009-10 to the end of February 2010.

	2008-09		*2009-10 to end February 2010*	
	Rent	*Low cost home ownership*	*Rent*	*Low cost home ownership*
Grant (£ million)	5.39	1.76	14.97	5.61
Units	100	60	256	170

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency

In addition, £1.53 million grant for 27 units has been allocated to Sheffield city council under round 1 of the Local Authority New Build programme.

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many curfew orders have been issued by courts in York since the introduction of such orders; and how many of those people have been proceeded against for breaching them. [322095]

Claire Ward: The available information is provided in the following table.

The data presented in the table are for curfew orders (under Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 Section 37) given in York courts to offenders as a sentence. Data are not held centrally for the number of curfews issued by courts as part of other sentences such as the requirements of community orders under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 Section 177 or other Acts. Data are not held centrally for the number of curfews ordered as a condition of bail.

Due to data quality issues we are unable to provide information on breaches. Work is currently under way to resolve this.

For information purposes: the data which have been provided do not include local child curfew schemes (set up under the powers provided by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and sections 48 and 49 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 which has been repealed by the Police and Crime Act 2009).

Total curfew orders[1] issued in criminal courts in York, all offences, 1998 to 2008

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Crown court	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	2	3	1	2
Magistrates court	—	—	—	1	4	13	25	19	36	36	43

[1] Curfew orders under s.38 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000. These figures do not include community orders imposed with a curfew requirement. The magistrates court data include the adult and youth court.

Notes:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

2. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Source:

Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database

Care Proceedings

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children under 18 years of age who are the subject of *(a)* pre-court and *(b)* court orders are not in education, employment or training. [322413]

Maria Eagle: Figures from the Youth Justice Board indicate that there were 1,708 young people aged under-18 in England and Wales in 2008-09 with final warnings with an intervention, who were not receiving any education, employment or training when their order closed. There were 10,547 young people with relevant community-based penalties or community elements of custodial sentences who were not receiving any suitable education, training or employment.

The data have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board and drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time. Differences in counting rules may mean that figures from other databases are not directly comparable.

Convictions: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted at York *(a)* magistrates court and *(b)* Crown court in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest 12 months for which figures are available; and what the average time taken between charging and sentence for people convicted at each court was in each such period. [322125]

Claire Ward: The number persons found guilty at York magistrates court and York Crown court in 1997 and 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Court data for 2009 are planned for publication in the autumn, 2010.

The Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database cannot identify the time taken between charge and sentence.

Number of persons found guilty at York magistrates' court and York Crown court for all offences, 1997 and 2008[1,2]

Court	*Found guilty*
York petty sessional area[3]	
1997	3,714
2008	2,831
York Crown Court	
1997	480
2008	535

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used

[3] Includes the Adult and youth Court

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

Courts: Video Conferencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the virtual court pilot at Camberwell Green magistrates court of *(a)* police officers, *(b)* court staff, *(c)* other court operational costs, excluding staff, *(d)* Crown Prosecution staff and *(e)* probation staff. [322049]

Claire Ward: The evaluation of the Virtual Courts pilot, which began in May 2009, will assess any variation in the costs of operational staff required to administer the process, compared with the traditional court process. It will also consider the costs of the supporting technology. The final report is expected in autumn 2010.

The total project costs for the pilot are approximately £5 million. This includes the costs of developing the technical infrastructure required to support it, but excludes operational staff costs.

Custodial Treatment: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people received a custodial sentence at York *(a)* magistrates court and *(b)* Crown court in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available; and what the average length of sentence at each court was in each such period. [322126]

Claire Ward: The available information is provided in the following table:

Total custodial sentences in the magistrates court and crown court and the average custodial sentence length (months)[1], 1997 to 2008

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Crown court												
Total sentenced	539	637	659	676	641	643	593	610	678	713	673	753
Total immediate custody	282	359	376	397	448	407	360	415	448	417	387	351
Total suspended sentences	21	14	24	8	9	14	12	17	11	97	131	136
Average custodial sentence length (months)	17.5	19.1	19.3	20.5	20.9	25.4	26.5	25.3	25.5	24.7	26.6	21.3
Magistrates court												
Total sentenced	3,724	3,891	4,376	3,153	2,858	2,375	2,607	2,716	2,959	2,384	2,285	2,755
Total immediate custody	108	161	227	230	202	139	196	228	200	118	119	164
Total suspended sentences	0	4	1	2	1	2	4	0	36	98	73	89
Average custodial sentence length (months)	3.1	3.2	2.7	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.6	2.4

[1] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences. Suspended sentence orders were introduced in April 2005.

Notes:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
2. The data have been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. The data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Dangerous Dogs: Prosecutions

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been in Lancashire for offences in connection with allowing a dog to attack a person in the last 36 months. [321884]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts in the Lancashire police force area for selected offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, from 2006 to 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication in autumn 2010.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts in the Lancashire police force area for selected offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, from 2006 to 2008[1, 2]

		Proceeded against			Found guilty		
Offence description	*Section of the Act*	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person	S.3 (1)	26	19	19	17	12	15
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place, no injury being caused	S.3 (1)	11	18	12	8	12	5
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person	S.3 (3)	1	1	—	1		
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non- public place causing reasonable apprehension of injury to a person	S.3 (3)	2	1	1	1		

[1] The number proceeded against and number found guilty relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces and the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many designs for its *(a)* internal website and *(b)* intranet his Department and its predecessor have commissioned since 2005; and what the cost was of each such design. [321995]

Mr. Wills: The Department's internal website is the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) intranet. Since 2005 the intranet has been completely redesigned and rebuilt twice. Only the most recent design in 2009 required design work to be commissioned. The total cost for this work is as follows:

Total cost for design work commissioned for the MOJ intranet—2009

Task	*Staff*	*Days*	*Rate (£)*	*Cost (£)*
Design drafts	Senior designer	7.5	590	4,425
Project management	Project manager	0.5	600	300
Total	—	—	—	4,725

The MOJ intranet was created in 2007 to meet the needs of the new Ministry of Justice. The new Ministry brought together a number of disparate bodies and the intranet was a key element in building the cohesion of the organisation.

The intranet is the main channel of communication for Ministry of Justice staff across the Department providing up-to-date information on corporate issues. It also provides a wide range of information and resources which make a major contribution to the efficient running of the Department and gives staff quick and easy access to many of the tools they need to do their jobs.

The intranet was redesigned and rebuilt in 2009. The new intranet provides quick and easier access to information therefore contributing to increased efficiency in the work of the Department. A more modern look and feel helps to bring the experience of using the intranet into line with the expectations of staff who use other online channels both at work and at home. The intranet provides a central focus for all staff, is able to be accessed across the organisation, and helps join up the Ministry and its staff.

Employment Tribunal Service

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many employment tribunal hearings were *(a)* scheduled and *(b)* completed at each centre in each of the last three years. [322019]

Bridget Prentice: The information in the following table shows the number of scheduled hearings in each employment tribunal office and the number of hearings that actually took place in those offices. In each case, the information covers each of the last three complete financial years. For the purposes of this question, the term 'hearing' includes case management discussions, pre-hearing reviews, merits hearings, review hearings and, where necessary, remedy hearings.

The listing of a case for hearing can often focus the minds of parties and representatives on the possibility of solutions other than a tribunal hearing. Many of the cases scheduled for hearing can, therefore, be settled or withdrawn prior to that hearing taking place. A number of cases will also have been postponed at the request of parties or, occasionally, on the direction of an employment judge. In order to maximise the use of hearing rooms cases are listed (under the direction of a Judge) with the expectation that a proportion will withdraw.

Office	*Number of hearings*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Aberdeen	Scheduled	753	820	767
	Completed	304	302	294
Ashford	Scheduled	2,162	2,492	2,265
	Completed	1012	1184	960
Bedford	Scheduled	2,278	2,248	2,439
	Completed	914	821	858
Birmingham	Scheduled	6,440	6,674	7,763
	Completed	3,161	3,243	3,439
Bristol	Scheduled	2,660	3,039	3,194
	Completed	1,243	1,254	1,306
Bury St. Edmunds	Scheduled	2,529	2,537	2,530
	Completed	921	881	882
Cardiff	Scheduled	2,504	2,901	3,169
	Completed	966	1,178	1,343
Dundee	Scheduled	685	669	588
	Completed	307	226	217
Edinburgh	Scheduled	1,520	1,489	1,384
	Completed	612	592	544
Exeter	Scheduled	2,055	2,548	2,39[illegible]
	Completed	918	1,129	1,053
Glasgow	Scheduled	3,074	3,523	3,749
	Completed	1,367	1,627	1,739
Leeds	Scheduled	4,459	4,769	5,110
	Completed	2,038	2,229	2,222
Leicester	Scheduled	1,822	2,076	2,093
	Completed	670	846	822
Liverpool	Scheduled	2,867	2,870	3,135
	Completed	1,082	1,092	1,264
London Central	Scheduled	4,871	5,357	6,405
	Completed	2,599	2,952	3,446
London South	Scheduled	5,294	5,182	5,182
	Completed	2,635	2,636	2,695
Manchester	Scheduled	5,598	5,766	6,657
	Completed	2,226	2,448	3,008
Newcastle	Scheduled	5,751	7,208	7,206
	Completed	3,059	4,068	3,798
Nottingham	Scheduled	2,475	2,791	3,003
	Completed	961	1,080	1,267
Reading	Scheduled	1,911	2,380	2,384
	Completed	823	997	1,010
Sheffield	Scheduled	2,040	1,969	2,086
	Completed	817	706	716
Shrewsbury	Scheduled	2,008	1,770	1,942
	Completed	816	746	719
Southampton	Scheduled	3,739	3,774	3,436
	Completed	1,680	1,658	1,560
Stratford	Scheduled	3,217	3,679	3,221
	Completed	1,605	1,645	1,372
Watford	Scheduled	3,334	3,017	3,705
	Completed	1,489	1,344	1,469

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements there are for the management of information technology at the Employment Tribunal Service; and for what reason the service has ceased to employ stenographers to transcribe proceedings. [322020]

Bridget Prentice: The Tribunals Service is responsible for administering the work of employment tribunals. Information technology services in respect of those tribunals are provided by a unit within the Ministry of Justice, MOJ ICT (Information Communications Technology), which itself contracts with specialist IT providers. The contracts in place specify levels of service to be delivered, including measures for both quality and timeliness.

Stenographers have never been employed by the Tribunals Service or, before its inception, the Employment Tribunals Service, to transcribe employment tribunal proceedings. Parties may, with the consent of the tribunal, use stenographers but the costs involved will be met by the parties.

Greater Manchester

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Manchester, Gorton constituency, the effects on that constituency of the policies of his Department and its predecessors since 1997. [322138]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice's work spans criminal, civil and family justice, democracy, rights and the constitution. Every year around nine million people use our services in 900 locations across the United Kingdom, including 650 courts and tribunals and 139 prisons in England and Wales.

The range of the Department's policies and actions is wide and the statistical information relating to it is not normally collected on a constituency basis. Consequently, some of the information requested in the question cannot be provided in the form requested except at a disproportionate cost.

> Although data on sentencing for the period are not available for the constituency of Gorton, they are available for Greater Manchester. This shows a decrease in the total number of offenders sentenced annually from 94,568 in 1997 to 77,729 in 2008, the latest period for which such information is available.
>
> The number of offences brought to justice for the Greater Manchester area increased from 59,224 for the 12 months ending 31 March 2001 (the earliest period since which such data have been compiled) to 71,894 (provisional figures) for the 12 months ending 31 March 2009.
>
> With regard to prosecutions, data are not available for the constituency of Gorton. However, the total number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts in Greater Manchester was 123,806 in 1997 compared to 91,211 in 2008.
>
> The latest data, which cover reoffending in the period 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2009, showed that the 3 month reoffending rate for offenders on the probation caseload in Manchester was 10.37 per cent. After controlling for changes in the characteristics of offenders on the probation caseload, there was a decrease in reoffending of 1.89 per cent. compared to the 2007-08 baseline. Data are not available prior to 2007 on this basis.
>
> The number of persons commencing court order supervision by the Probation Service in Greater Manchester was 8,522 in 1997 and 11,769 in 2008.
>
> 93,393 civil non-family proceedings were started in the county courts of Greater Manchester HM Courts Service (HMCS) area in 2008, compared to 137,500 in 1998, the first year for which these figures are available. In respect of family law, there were also 4,766 private law applications and 347 public law applications made in the county or High Courts of this HMCS area in 2008-09, compared to 4,275 and 485 respectively in 2003-04, the first annual period for which these figures are available.

In addition, at a national level:

> Local communities are being better engaged in criminal justice – by giving them a say in the types of Community Payback projects offenders carry out and allowing them to see justice being done, for example through the use of high visibility jackets. Offenders have now worked more than fourteen million hours, with an estimated value to the taxpayer of over £80 million.
>
> Major constitutional reforms have been delivered, including devolution, the Human Rights Act, Freedom of Information, Lords Reform, and a new Supreme Court for the UK.

Legal Aid

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are in place to provide for flexibility in the number of matter starts which may be allocated to take account of increased demand at local level. [321828]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Services Commission (LSC), like all other public bodies, must work within a fixed budget. However, the LSC is responsive to increased demand for services at local level within that budget. Last year, the LSC increased the number of cases funded of initial civil advice and assistance in areas like debt and housing to over one million in response to the economic downturn—a record amount. The LSC also allocated cases in areas where clients had previously found services hard to access. The LSC will continue to maintain this flexible approach where there is evidence of both need and demand for additional services.

Should the commission find, that there is insufficient access to advice in a particular area, either following the tender or during the life of the contract, they will consider further measures within their budget constraints. This will range from offering increased matter starts to existing contracted providers, to undertaking further interim bid rounds to encourage the development of additional services.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to ensure that the requirements of vulnerable people receiving services under the new Legal Services Commission contracts are met. [321826]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are committed to ensuring that the most vulnerable people in society have access to quality, publicly-funded legal advice for family and social welfare issues. This is why we increased expenditure on Legal Help, which covers initial advice and assistance, from £176 million in 2008-09 to £200 million for 2009-10. We have also increased the number of acts of assistance provided from 595,000 in 2004-05 to over a million last year. During 2010-11, funding for advice and assistance will be maintained to ensure that people can continue to access the help they need.

The new civil contracts will begin on 14 October 2010. One of the main changes made to advice provision under the new contract will be the requirement to provide services in housing, debt and welfare benefits holistically, under one contract. This will provide a more integrated service and meet clients' needs more effectively. Practitioners who do not currently provide all three services have the option of forming consortia to bid for this work.

The tender process for social welfare law and family services opened on 26 February. Practitioners wishing to bid for new contracts can access procurement plans, detailing numbers of case starts available in specified geographical (procurement) areas, on the LSC website.

If access problems arise during the life of the new contract, the LSC will take appropriate action—within budget—to encourage additional services.

Legal Costs

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish his response to the Jackson review of litigation costs. [321827]

Bridget Prentice: We are very grateful to Lord Justice Jackson for his far reaching report, which makes significant recommendations for reducing costs in the civil justice system. We are now actively assessing the implications of Sir Rupert's principle recommendations. This is a substantial task and will inevitably take some time. However, we will announce our next steps once this initial analysis is completed.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessors have spent in *(a)* legal fees and *(b)* compensation on legal cases concerning remuneration of its employees in each of the last 10 years. [322063]

Mr. Wills: Details of Legal Fees and Compensation paid on (and following) legal cases concerning remuneration of Ministry of Justice employees, excluding the National Offender Management Service, are shown for the last three financial years (and for 2009-10 to end of February 2010).

			£
	Legal Fees	*Compensation*	*Total*
2007-08	35,596	3,203	38,799
2008-09	67,145	232	67,377
2009-10	77,437	54,670	132,107

It is not possible to provide details covering years before 2007-08 without incurring disproportionate costs.

It has not been possible to provide information in answer to this question for the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) without incurring disproportionate cost. Many prison establishments defend and settle their own cases locally and records of compensation paid or legal fees are not retained centrally.

Prisoners: Rehabilitation

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of offending behaviour programmes are *(a)* offered in each category of prison and *(b)* assessed as suitable for offenders with learning (i) difficulties and (ii) disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [322044]

Maria Eagle: Out of a total of 25 accredited offending behaviour and substance misuse programmes which are offered in different establishments within the prison estate:

13 (52 per cent.) are offered in the category A estate (remand and sentenced);

18 (72 per cent.) in local category B (remand and sentenced);

12 (48 per cent.) in category B (sentenced);

19 (76 per cent.) in category C (sentenced);

5 (20 per cent.) in category D open and semi open (sentenced);

11 (44 per cent.) in YOIs;

5 (20 per cent.) in the female estate.

The security categories A, B, C, and D and local category B relate to establishments which hold adult male prisoners. Female establishments and those for young offenders are not categorised.

Prisons which have been designed and built to accommodate prisoners up to a particular security category may hold prisoners of a lower category to enable the effective management of the estate, particularly where the establishment is fulfilling a number of functions. The predominant function of each establishment has been used in producing the figures above which may be subject to changes in delivery. The programmes which are offered cover four broad areas set against levels of offender risk and need, which address substance misuse, general offending behaviour, sexual and violent offending.

In addition to accredited programmes there are a number of non accredited programmes which are approved locally to meet particular needs and other activities such as training, education, work, support and resettlement are offered to prisoners to help reduce the risk of re-offending.

Further information on the delivery of accredited programmes across the estate can be found in the National Offender Management Service annual report 2008-09

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/noms-annual-report-08-09.htm

Offending behaviour programmes accommodate a broad range of offenders. Where appropriate, prisons must make reasonable adjustments to ensure programmes are accessible to all those who could potentially benefit. If there are concerns for example about mental or physical health, intellectual ability, language, literacy, dyslexia, or disability then an assessment should be undertaken or specialist advice obtained to see if the particular deficits can be worked with within the programme. Participation on a particular programme will depend on the assessment and scale of the issues in an individual case. There may be more than one factor that precludes an individual from participating in a programme.

Further work may be possible to prepare an individual, however there will be some offenders who are unable to participate due to the intensive nature and cognitive focus of the programmes. If a programme is not suitable then one to one work may be considered. If an individual is still unsuitable then other interventions or activities should be considered to meet their needs. Offending behaviour programmes are only element of National

Offender Management Service work to address the risks and needs of offenders and reduce their risk of reoffending.

Prisons: Lancashire

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for a new prison in East Lancashire; and if he will make a statement. [321883]

Maria Eagle: On 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 10WS, I announced a new search for sites capable of supporting 1,500 place prisons that would focus on those areas of greatest strategic need, specifically London, the north-west, North Wales, and West Yorkshire.

No decision has yet been made about where these new prisons will be built. We hope to have a final shortlist of potential sites ready for publication by the summer. Before the publication of this shortlist, there will be a consultation with local Members of Parliament and planning authorities to achieve the most open and transparent process possible. A full public consultation will be conducted before any planning application for a prison is put in.

Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what guidance he issues to magistrates on the activation of suspended sentences of imprisonment where the defendant is found guilty or pleads guilty during the period of suspension to the commission of a further *(a)* non-imprisonable and *(b)* imprisonable offence in circumstances where an imprisonable offence has previously been committed and the suspended sentence has not yet been activated; [321999]

(2) what guidance he has issued to magistrates on the activation of suspended sentences of imprisonment where the defendant is either found guilty or pleads guilty during the period of suspension to *(a)* a breach of a requirement forming part of the suspended sentence, *(b)* the commission of a non-imprisonable offence and *(c)* the commission of an imprisonable offence. [322042]

Claire Ward: Suspended sentence orders were introduced in April 2005 to provide the courts with a tougher and more flexible suspended sentence as an alternative to immediate custody, where appropriate. It provides for the court both to suspend the custodial sentence and also to impose community requirements such as curfew, community payback and drug rehabilitation.

The Government do not issue guidance to magistrates or judges on sentencing. The issuing of guidance is a matter for the Sentencing Guidelines Council. Breach of a suspended sentence order is governed by schedule 12 to the Criminal Justice Act 2003. Essentially, where an offender breaches a suspended sentence by failing to comply with a community requirement or by committing a further offence the presumption is that the suspended sentence will be activated, unless the court finds it would be unjust to do so. If it activates the suspended sentence the court can set a shorter term for the offender to serve if it wishes. If the court finds that it would be unjust to activate the suspended sentence it can keep the sentence suspended but amend the order to make the community requirements more onerous, or to extend the supervision or operational periods.

Victim Support Schemes: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on supporting victims of crime and witnesses who were party to proceedings at York *(a)* magistrates court and *(b)* Crown court in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available; and how many victims of crime and witnesses were offered support in each such period. [322127]

Claire Ward: Data on supporting victims of crime and witnesses who were party to proceedings at court are not available prior to 2001-02. The data in 2001-02 relate to spending by Victim Support to provide support victims and witnesses of crime in court and is only available for York Crown court and the total of those supported in all magistrates courts in North Yorkshire. York magistrates court data were not available until Victim Support became a single charity in 2007.

The following tables provide data for 2001-02 (earliest data available) and 2008/2009 (the latest year for which figures are available).

(i) 2001-02

	(a) All North Yorkshire magistrates courts	*(b) York Crown court only*	*Total*
Funding provided (£)	82,435	14,406	96,841
People Supported	2,426	445	2,871

(ii) 2008-09

	(a) York City magistrates court only	*(b) York Crown court only*	*Total*
Funding provided (£)	25,841	28,586	54,427
People Supported	868	1060	1928

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business: Credit

Mr. Syms: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely *(a)* price and *(b)* availability of credit to small businesses in the second quarter of 2010. [320389]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The overall cost of finance for business is ultimately determined by the market, but is made of a number of factors, including the cost of funding for the banks, and the cost of risk and capital. BIS data shows the overall cost for SMEs was stable during the later part of 2009, and in general less than two years ago.

Banks maintain that they have the capacity to meet the demand from viable businesses in the second quarter of 2010 and beyond, and the Government expects them to do so. BIS data show that majority of applications from businesses for financial support continue to be approved.

Business: Government Assistance

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small businesses in each constituency in the East of England have applied for financial assistance under the *(a)* Enterprise Finance Guarantee and *(b)* Capital Enterprise scheme since inception; and how many such applications were granted. [317528]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, as of 10 February, 742 businesses in the East of England region have drawn down loans totalling £66.82 million. The figures for each individual constituency in the East of England region will be deposited in the Library of the House. Businesses may apply for a loan from any one of the participating lenders who will assess which form of lending, including the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, is most appropriate. We do not hold figures for those businesses which are instead offered a normal commercial loan, or are rejected for failing to meet the lender's commercial criteria.

With respect to the Capital for Enterprise Fund equity scheme, CfEF received 57 inquiries from businesses in the East of England seeking investment to the value of £55.9 million. Thus far, although no businesses have received investment, two businesses have been offered investment totalling £3.3 million. Inquiries from eight businesses are being considered subject to further information to be supplied by the applicant. The remaining 47 inquiries have been rejected or withdrawn. I am not providing a breakdown by parliamentary constituency or local authority as this could make it possible to identify the individual companies that have received support.

Mr. Bain: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Glasgow North East constituency have received support from the Government since 2008. [319973]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Business support is devolved to the Scottish Executive. I suggest my hon. Friend writes to the Executive.

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in *(a)* the North West, *(b)* the City of Manchester and *(c)* Manchester Central constituency have received financial assistance from his Department and its predecessor since December 2007. [321038]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since December 2007, a total of 293 businesses in the north-west have been awarded assistance from the Grant for Business Investment (GBI) and Grant for Research & Development (Grant for R&D) schemes. Of this total, 23 businesses have been in the city of Manchester and 18 in the Manchester, Central constituency.

Business: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses there were in City of York *(a)* unitary local authority area and *(b)* constituency in each year since 1997. [321727]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many businesses there were in the City of York (a) unitary local authority and (b) constituency in each year since 1997. (321727)

Annual statistics on business counts are available for 2000 onwards from the ONS release UK Business: Activity, Size and Location at

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available for business counts for York UA and City of York constituency.

Enterprise counts for York UA and the City of York Constituency

Year	York UA	City of York
2000	4,645	2,655
2001	4,760	2,700
2002	4,775	2,710
2003	4,945	2,705
2004	5,095	2,725
2005	5,325	2,845
2006	5,480	2,865
2007	5,690	2,915
2008	5,740	3,000
2009	5,820	3,015

Departmental Consultants

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible and *(c)* each other body sponsored by his Department and its predecessor in each year since 2005. [319150]

Mr. McFadden: Central records indicate that the Department and its predecessors have spent the following on consultancy fees in the last five financial years:

	£
2009-10 (to end February)	10,773,864
2008-09	22,059,657
2007-08	17,221,768
2006-07	31,020,555
2005-06	41,607,166

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Further details, including provision of non-departmental public bodies and other bodies sponsored by the Department, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 16 March 2010:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has asked me to reply to your question on how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by (a) his Department, (b) each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible and (c) each other body sponsored by his Department and its predecessor in each year since 2005.

The Insolvency Service an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has spent the following amounts on external consultants and advisers since 2005:

	Amount (£000)
2005	11
2006	26
2007	0
2008	244
2009 (to 31 December 2009)	156

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 10 March 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 23 February 2010, UIN 319150 to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House spent the following amounts on external consultants and advisers in each since 2005:

	£
2005-06	143,821
2006-07	248,567
2007-08	125,477
2008-09	152,499

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 26 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (NMO) to your Parliamentary Question asking the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, how much was spent on external consultants and advisers in each year since 2005.

Since April 2009, we have adopted the OGC definition of consultancy, namely "advice related to strategy, structure, management or operations of an organisation in pursuit of its objectives". Prior to that date, our records do not distinguish between the various forms of consultants and contractors, for instance those carrying out research projects.

We have spent £77,071.70 between April 2009 and December 2009 on external consultants and advisers as defined by OGC. Expenditure in previous years on "consultancy" using the wider definition that I have mentioned was:

Financial year	£
2005/06	34,969.34
2006/07	77,417.59
2007/08	93,293.94
2008/09	135,471.48

Letter from John Alty, dated 25 February 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 23 February 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The amount spent on external consultants and advisors in each calendar year since 2005 is:

	£000
2005	24
2006	357
2007	54
2008	117
2009	105

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish a detailed breakdown of his Department's expenditure on entertainment in each of the last 12 months. [321398]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 March 2010]:* This Department spent the following amounts on entertainment from June 2009, when the Department was created:

	£
June 2009	118,577
July 2009	114,972
August 2009	69,109
September 2009	79,465
October 2009	118,300
November 2009	148,950
December 2009	26,256
January 2010	114,120
February 2010	100,378

A further breakdown could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Exports: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies in Milton Keynes exported goods or services to *(a)* other EU countries and *(b)* non-EU countries in the last 12 months. [321876]

Ian Lucas: HM Revenue and Customs publishes a regional breakdown for trade in goods. The UK Trade Statistics for calendar year 2009 were published on 11 March 2010. The numbers of unique exporters for 2009, in the south-east, for EU and non-EU countries were 3,215 and 12,761 respectively.

The UK Trade Statistics are provided at regional level so we are unable to confirm the numbers of companies for Milton Keynes.

Further Education: Manpower

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average staff to student ratio is in *(a)* York College and *(b)* further education colleges in England. [312888]

Kevin Brennan: Information on staff to student ratios is not collected centrally.

Information on the number of staff contracts is published in a report by Lifelong Learning UK, 'Further Education Workforce Data for England':

http://www.lluk.org/sir-17-data-collection-fe-sector.htm

Annex 2 gives information on the number of contracts for further education colleges in 2007-08.

Information on the number of learners participating in further education is published in a quarterly statistical first release:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrdec09

Greater Manchester

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Manchester, Gorton constituency, the effects on that constituency of the policies of his Department and its predecessors since 1997. [322136]

Mr. McFadden: The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/

The Government have put in place a broad programme of reform since 1997. Over the decade to 2007, the economic performance of all parts of the UK has improved considerably. The global recession has had a negative impact on economic activity in all areas of the UK. However, the economy was starting from a position of strength and is actively supported by policies implemented by the Government, including the fiscal stimulus and a significant package of support for those out of work.

In Gorton people are benefiting from this investment. At the start of 2010, total claimant count unemployment stood at 5.7 per cent., compared to 8.1 per cent. in May 1997; while long-term unemployment (more than 18 months) stood at 0.3 per cent. compared to 2.2 per cent. in May 1997.

Higher Education: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many first year undergraduate places in universities the Government plan to fund in academic year 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [322275]

Mr. Lammy: Our grant letter to Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) this year confirmed additional teaching grant funding for the equivalent of an extra 10,000 full-time-equivalent places in 2010-11. We did not specify whether these Additional Student Numbers should be full or part time, undergraduate or postgraduate, but HEFCE estimate that this will result in around 4,000 additional HEFCE funded full-time first year entrants.

Data on the 2010-11 student population, including the number of first year undergraduate entrants, will be published early in 2012.

Higher Education: Overseas Students

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the number of foreign students who *(a)* were offered and *(b)* accepted a place to study a degree course at university in academic year 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [322434]

Mr. Lammy: The information is shown in the following table.

Non-UK domiciled UCAS applicants receiving degree offers/accepted to degree courses in the UK

Domicile	*Received main scheme offers*	*Accepted for entry*
Non-UK EU countries	30,783	23,103
Non-UK other countries	40,255	31,992
Total	71,038	55,095

Source:
UCAS

In the main scheme, each applicant can submit up to five choices (with the exception of courses in medicine/dentistry/veterinary medicine where only four choices are permitted). Each choice is for a different course. Based on the offers they receive from institutions, the applicant may choose one firm and one insurance choice. The offers stipulate the exam grades required, in addition to any non-academic conditions, in order for the applicant to be accepted on the course.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students who do not speak English as a first language *(a)* were offered and *(b)* accepted a place on a degree course at university for academic year 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [322436]

Mr. Lammy: The information is not held centrally. Universities are autonomous bodies and set their own entry requirements. These will include assessment of competence in English language to ensure that students are able to benefit from their studies.

Higher Education: Part-time Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he made of the number of English domiciled part-time undergraduate students who received a full fee grant who studied *(a)* between 30 and 49, *(b)* between 50 and 59, *(c)* between 60 and 74 and *(d)* 75 per cent. or more of a full-time course in the latest year for which figures are available. [321946]

Mr. Lammy: Prior to 2000/01 there was no statutory financial support for part-time students. The current system of support was introduced in 2004; it comprises a course grant to help pay towards course costs such as books and travel and a fee grant to help pay towards fees.

Fee grants are available to part-time students on courses of no less than 50 per cent. of an equivalent full-time course.

English domiciled students known to be awarded full part-time fee grants academic year 2008/09[1]

Intensity (percentage of equivalent full-time course)	*Applicants known to be awarded full fee grants*
50% to 59%	5,300
60% to 74%	1,900
75% or more	4,400
Total	11,600

[1] Approved applicants awarded fee grants. Figures rounded to nearest 100.

Source:
Student Loans Company and Open University applications data

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of English-domiciled part-time undergraduate students who did not have a level 4 qualification on entry to their course in the latest year for which figures are available. [321947]

Mr. Lammy: In the academic year 2008/09 there were 197,160 English-domiciled part-time undergraduate student enrolments who did not have a level 4 or above qualification on entry to their course at a UK higher education institution (including the Open university). There were 224,870 who did have a level 4 or above qualification on entry to their course and a further 35,465 whose qualification level on entry was unknown or missing.

Of those with known highest qualification on entry, 47 per cent. did not have a level 4 or above qualification on entry to their course.

Figures are taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of English-domiciled part-time undergraduate students *(a)* with and *(b)* without a level 4 qualification on entry to their course who studied (i) less than 30, (ii) between 31 and 49, (iii) between 50 and 59, (iv) between 60 and 74 and (v) 75 per cent. or more of a full-time course in the latest year for which figures are available. [321948]

Mr. Lammy: Statistics for 2008/09 are provided in the table. Figures are provided for part-time student enrolments as full-time equivalents. There were 144,005 full-time equivalent (FTE) enrolments at undergraduate level whose highest qualification on entry was known and a further 9,815 FTE undergraduates whose qualification level on entry was unknown or missing. The proportions provided in the table are based on those students with known highest qualification on entry information.

English-domiciled full-time equivalent undergraduate enrolments by level of qualification on entry UK higher education institutions Academic year 2008/09

	With a Level 4 or higher qualification on entry		*Without a Level 4 or higher qualification on entry*	
Full-time equivalent (percentage)	*Number*	*Proportion (percentage)*	*Number*	*Proportion (percentage)*
0-30	18,770	27	12,285	17
31-49	11,785	17	10,920	15
50-59	20,815	29	21,635	29
60-74	8,700	12	12,230	17
75+	10,560	15	16,310	22
Total	70,630	100	73,395	100

Notes:

1. Figures are based on a Higher Education Statistics Agency Standard Registration Population
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest five so components may not sum to totals
3. Percentages are based on unrounded figures.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how much his Department spent on *(a)* fee and *(b)* course grant payments for English-domiciled part-time students in the latest year for which figures are available; [321949]

(2) how many and what proportion of English-domiciled part-time undergraduate students received a *(a)* full and *(b)* partial fee grant in the latest period for which figures are available; [321950]

(3) how many and what proportion of English-domiciled part-time undergraduate students received a *(a)* fee and *(b)* course grant in the latest period for which figures are available. [321951]

Mr. Lammy: Prior to 2000/01 there was no statutory financial support for part-time students. The current system of support was introduced in 2004; it comprises a course grant to help pay towards course costs such as books and travel and a fee grant to help pay towards fees.

English domiciled students awarded part-time fee and course grants academic year 2008/09[1]

	Students	*Value (£ million)*
Fee Grant	52,900	35.8
Course Grant	54,900	14.0

[1] Table shows approved applicants rounded to nearest 100 and award entitlement amounts rounded to nearest £100,000.

Source:

Student Loans Company and Open University applications data

There are three rates of maximum fee grant, which depend on the intensity of the course.

Grant level of English domiciled students awarded part-time fee grant[2] *Academic year 2008/09*[1]

Grant level	*Students*	*Percentage of all awarded fee grant*
Full fee grant	11,600	22
Partial fee grant	40,800	77
Intensity not known	500	1

[1] Table shows approved applicants rounded to nearest 100.

[2] Students with a fee grant who had no intensity of study recorded on the statistical database. Therefore it could not be ascertained whether their level of grant was the maximum for their level of study.

Source:

Student Loans Company and Open University applications data

It is estimated that around 10 per cent. of part-time students are awarded a fee grant, and around 10 per cent. are awarded a course grant. This is based on all part-time students, some of whom are not eligible for support. To be eligible for grants, a part-time student must be on a course of no less than 50 per cent. of an equivalent course and not already have a degree.

Higher Education: Standards

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent meetings on university targets *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department have attended. [321676]

Mr. Lammy: Government remains committed to the long-term goal that 50 per cent. of young people should enter higher education. Alongside our aim of a greater diversity of learners, we want to continue to deliver widening participation and to equip both our future and existing workforce with the skills that globalisation and a knowledge economy demand.

Higher education Initial Participation Rate is at 43 per cent. for 2007-08 (with 2008-09 figures to be published at end of March), so we are ahead of trajectory against our target indicator. There have been no recent meetings with Ministers or officials on this matter.

Non-profit Making Associations

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will list for each regional development agency (RDA) the total amount spent on *(a)* start-up and *(b)* support in respect of social enterprises in each of the last five years; and what percentage of each RDA budget this represented in each such year. [314860]

Ms Rosie Winterton: RDAs recognise the value that social enterprises (SEs) bring as businesses providing significant economic benefits to regions while delivering social benefits and/or enhancing the environment.

RDAs have various investment routes for supporting SEs, including funding through the social enterprise networks, direct investment into SEs, provision of social enterprise grants/voucher schemes, and development of mentoring schemes. From 2007/08, the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) has funded a four year programme to enable each of the nine RDAs to develop SE support across the country.

The RDAs also deliver support for start-up and existing SEs through the Business Link service and regional Solutions for Business products, which are open and accessible to all businesses. To filter the information to obtain the 'type' of organisation that has received mainstream business support would incur disproportionate cost and as such the following data relate only to the support provided through projects and investments specifically directed at SEs. The RDAs expenditure on social enterprise start-ups cannot be separated from the support provided to established SEs.

Total amount spent on support of social enterprises

£000

RDA	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*
AWM[1]	42	245	121	826	1,274
EEDA	62	170	283	1,066	3,354
EMDA	2,286	4,413	3,385	2,569	2,812
LDA[2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	476	740
NWDA[3]	1,530	1,714	2,931	1,919	917
ONE	172	200	190	247	326
SEEDA[4]	n/a	158	179	231	758
SWRDA	288	245	520	736	974
YF[5]	n/a	n/a	2,189	3,789	5,139

[1] AWM: The figures are conservative estimates as data prior to 2007/08 do not include Business Link activity. Neither Business Link nor Social Enterprise West Midlands collected the requested data prior to April 2007.

[2] LDA: Where figures are unavailable, this is because there was no funding directly attributable to supporting the social enterprise sector. However, there may have been funding for the sector in these years within mainstream LDA programmes which cannot be disaggregated.

[3] NWDA: Business Link figures can not be provided prior to 2007/08, when their current provider began delivering the project.

[4] SEEDA: Prior to 2005/06, Business Link was not managed by SEEDA and figures are not available.

[5] YF: Did not hold the Business Link contract before 2006-07. YF are unable to provide figures for the funding that Business Link assigned to social enterprise support.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many social enterprises were *(a)* established in and *(b)* assisted by each regional development agency in each of the last five years. [314861]

Ms Rosie Winterton: RDAs recognise the value that social enterprises (SEs) bring as businesses providing significant economic benefits to regions whilst delivering social benefits and/or enhancing the environment.

RDAs have various investment routes for supporting SEs, including funding through the social enterprise networks, direct investment into SEs, provision of social enterprise grants/voucher schemes, and development of mentoring schemes. From 2007/08, the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) has funded a four year programme to enable each of the nine RDAs to develop SE support across the country.

In addition, RDAs also deliver support for start-up and existing SEs through the Business Link service and regional Solutions for Business products, which are open and accessible to all businesses. As such, it is not always possible to differentiate between the start up and support of SEs from that of other businesses. Only projects that directly support or invest in SEs are reflected in the following data. In addition, it is not always possible for RDAs to disaggregate between SE start-ups and other SE support.

The RDAs are only able to provide data on the number of social enterprises established over the past five years that have had direct contact with the RDAs.

RDA	*Year*	*Total number of social enterprises established*	*Total number of social enterprises assisted*
AWM[1]	2004-05	—	5
	2005-06	—	14
	2006-07	—	9
	2007-08	—	640
	2008-09	—	540
EEDA[2]	2004-05	—	107
	2005-06	—	114
	2006-07	—	119
	2007-08	—	215
	2008-09	—	330
EMDA[3]	2004-05	—	—
	2005-06	7	407
	2006-07	1	1,045
	2007-08	31	521
	2008-09	83	1,038
LDA[4]	2004-05	—	—
	2005-06	—	—
	2006-07	—	—
	2007-08	—	498
	2008-09	—	1,980
NWDA[5]	2004-05	134	—
	2005-06	54	—
	2006-07	60	—
	2007-08	57	108
	2008-09	49	610
ONE[6]	2004-05	4	10
	2005-06	3	70
	2006-07	8	72
	2007-08	69	561

RDA	*Year*	*Total number of social enterprises established*	*Total number of social enterprises assisted*
	2008-09	181	488
SEEDA[7]	2004-05	—	—
	2005-06	—	—
	2006-07	—	—
	2007-08	5	214
	2008-09	322	1,370
SWRDA[8]	2004-05	—	1
	2005-06	—	1
	2006-07	—	1
	2007-08	52	950
	2008-09	44	1,095
YF[9]	2004-05	66	143
	2005-06	57	180
	2006-07	48	554
	2007-08	12	617
	2008-09	110	1,221

[1] AWM: The figures are conservative estimates as data prior to 2007/08 do not include Business Link (BL) activity. Neither BL nor Social Enterprise West Midlands collected the requested data prior to April 2007.

[2] EEDA: EEDA is unable to disaggregate between 'established' and 'start-up' businesses. As such, the data provided refer to the total number of SEs assisted over the past five years.

[3] EMDA: Data are unavailable for 2004/05 as this is prior to the introduction of the nationally agreed Tasking Framework.

[4] LDA: Where figures are unavailable this is because there was no funding directly attributable to supporting the social enterprise sector. However, there may have been funding for the sector in these years within mainstream LDA programmes which cannot be disaggregated.

[5] NWDA: Prior to 2007/08, the number of social enterprises assisted was not recorded separately on the tasking framework. Data provided for 2007/08 and 2008/09 are the combined outputs of NWDA and Business Link NW. BL NW was established in April 2007.

[6] ONE: Figures prior to 2007/08 do not include BL services and therefore do not reflect the true figure of total number of SEs established and/or assisted. ONE is unable to provide BL figures prior to 2007/08 when their current provider began delivering the project.

[7] SEEDA: Business Link was not managed by SEEDA in 2004/05, and although SEEDA did manage BL in 2005/06 and 2006/07 the data required was not recorded. The new BL contract came into force on 1 April 2007 and from then reporting requirements changed.

[8] SWRDA: The South West RDA supports the regional social enterprise network, and the numbers recorded relate to the regional social enterprise network and to the support provided through BL providers. The South West RDA does not collect data on individual social enterprises supported. Contracts with our current BL providers started in 2007, so data for BL assisted businesses is not available before this.

[9] YF: Figures provided before 2008/09 do not include beneficiary data from BL as this predates the current BL provider. The figures provided for 2008/09 have not compared beneficiary data collected by BL and YF separately as this would incur disproportionate cost.

Pay: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much on average *(a)* men and *(b)* women in full-time employment in Milton Keynes were paid each week (i) in 1996-97 and (ii) at the latest date for which figures are available (A) in cash terms and (B) at constant prices. [321877]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how much on average *(a)* men and *(b)* women in full-time employment in Milton Keynes were paid each week (i) in 1996-97 and (ii) at the latest date for which figures are available (A) in cash terms and (B) at constant prices. (321877)

Average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

I attach a table showing the median gross weekly earnings for male full-time and female full-time employees for the Milton Keynes unitary authority area for the years 1997 and 2009, the earliest and latest periods for which figures are available. The all-items Retail Prices Index for April of each year has been used to calculate the equivalent constant price estimates.

Median gross weekly earnings (£) for full-time male and female employee jobs[1]: Milton Keynes 1997 and 2009

	1997 cash	*1997 at 2009 prices[2]*	*2009*
Male Full-time	399	540	578
Female Full-time	*278	377	*441

Notes

[1] Full-time employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence. As at April of each year.

[2] Deflated using all items RPI for April of each year

Guide to quality

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality.

The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5%, we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.

Key

* CV>5% and<= 10%

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Office for National Statistics 1997 and 2009

Personal Income: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average weekly gross earnings of full-time *(a)* men, *(b)* women and *(c)* people in York were (i) in 1996-97 and (ii) at the latest date for which figures are available (A) in cash terms and (B) at constant prices. [321695]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply. The letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Physics: Higher Education

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding from the public purse per physics undergraduate was allocated to universities in each of the last five years. [321825]

Mr. Lammy: This information is not held in the form requested. The Higher Education Funding Council for England's (HEFCE) teaching grant to institutions reflects the additional costs associated with particular subjects. It places each subject into four price bands from A to D, with A attracting the highest level of grant. Physics along with other laboratory-based subjects is in price group B. The rate of grant per full-time equivalent undergraduate in this price group was as follows:

	£
2005/06	4,959
2006/07	5,126
2007/08	5,291
2008/09	5,484
2009/10	5,425

It should be noted that these figures do not equate to the total public contribution to each student.

Students: Radicalism

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has allocated funding to combating Islamic extremism in educational establishments in 2009-10. [321681]

Mr. Lammy: The amount of funding allocated to Preventing Violent Extremism and promoting cohesion in further and higher education by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for financial year 2009-10 is £1.1 million.

Unemployment: Wellingborough

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the number of young people in *(a)* Wellingborough constituency and *(b)* the UK who are not in employment, education or training. [310668]

Kevin Brennan: Due to small sample sizes, we cannot provide robust estimates of young people not in employment, education or training for geographical areas smaller than local education authorities. Therefore we are unable to provide estimates for parliamentary constituency areas.

England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland each have different measures of people not in employment, education and training, therefore we are unable to produce an estimate for the UK as a whole.

The number of young people not in employment, education or training in England is published by DCSF every quarter. The latest information can be found here:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000890/NEETQtrBriefQ32009.pdf

Figures for other UK countries can be obtained from the relevant devolved administrations.

Weather: Industry

John Thurso: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the contribution to the economy of the private weather sector. [321360]

Ian Lucas: There has been no estimation of the contribution to the economy of the private weather sector. The most recent standard industrial classification system, from 2007, as well as past systems, do not separately classify the weather sector, and therefore no official data are available specifically for the weather sector.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 17 March 2010

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Written Questions: Government Responses

John Mason: To ask the Leader of the House when she plans to answer Question *(a)* 311222, *(b)* 311223, *(c)* 311224, *(d)* 311225 and *(e)* 311226, on public duty costs allowance, tabled on 12 January 2010. [322735]

Barbara Keeley: These five parliamentary questions were transferred to the Cabinet Office as I informed the Member in my letter of 14 January 2010.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 67W, on Somalia: overseas aid, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of arrangements for food supplies to be delivered and disbursed in the camps at Afgooye; and if he will make a statement. [322373]

Mr. Thomas: According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), current arrangements for distributing food aid to internally displaced people (IDPs) in the Afgooye corridor are inadequate. Between October and December 2009, IDPs in the Afgooye corridor received only half of the allocated food rations. Since the suspension of the United Nations World Food programme's (WFP) work in Afgooye in January, no food rations have been distributed.

On 10 March, the Secretary of State for International Development announced an additional £7.5 million to be channelled through UNICEF, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and United Nations Humanitarian Response Fund (UN HRF) to help deliver emergency food for hundreds of thousands of malnourished children and provide lifesaving water supplies. UNICEF is already working in the Afgooye corridor, providing emergency nutrition to starving children and their mothers, and is considering expanding its remit. UN HRF and ICRC are exploring possibilities of providing food aid to the Afgooye Corridor.

JUSTICE

Care Proceedings

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average time taken to complete care proceedings in the courts was in each local authority area in each year since 2003-04. [322412]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the average number of weeks from the date of application to order made for care and supervision cases in England and Wales (where completed cases are counted by child for family proceedings courts and by orders made for County courts). Data are provided by court area, as a local authority area breakdown is unavailable. Data are presented by court type, from 2006-07; the earliest year for which data are available.

Average number of weeks from application to order for care and supervision cases in England and Wales, for orders made in each year

Court area	*County court*			*Family proceedings court*		
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Avon and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, and Gloucestershire	58	62	57	43	45	44
Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire	52	53	62	45	40	51
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	62	67	69	47	52	50
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	48	52	56	45	48	47
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	45	49	49	39	39	39
Cheshire and Merseyside	55	58	57	43	46	55
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	48	57	59	45	47	46
Cumbria and Lancashire	51	53	61	42	41	44
Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight, and Wiltshire	50	58	54	45	42	44
Greater Manchester	55	57	59	43	42	40
Humber and South Yorkshire	41	45	46	38	36	39
Kent	53	61	67	45	45	50
Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire	51	54	55	42	41	42
London (Civil and Family)	56	66	65	51	53	49
Mid and West Wales	52	53	47	42	52	46
North and West Yorkshire	49	48	53	38	37	39
North Wales	62	51	58	45	31	38
Nottingham and Derbyshire	44	42	45	43	45	45
South East Wales	51	60	59	42	47	51
Surrey and Sussex	50	55	54	50	47	45
Thames Valley	47	51	55	41	39	44
England and Wales Average number of weeks	52	56	57	44	45	46
England and Wales: Total number of care and supervision orders made[1]	4,161	3,923	3,636	3,730	3,746	3,596

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[1] The figures for County courts count the number of care and supervision orders disposed in each year. Family proceedings courts figures count the number of children disposed.

Notes:

1. The data are taken from the HMCS FamilyMan System and from the Case Tracker system.
2. The figures only cover cases where a care order or a supervision order was made. The figures do not include other care and supervision disposals (e.g. order refused, order of no order) and do not include other order types (e.g. emergency protection, secure accommodation).
3. The figures reflect the mean number of weeks from application to order. This means that the numbers of weeks taken for each order have been added up, and the total has then been divided by the number of orders.

Children in Care: Child Trust Fund

Ruth Kelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of Child Trust Funds managed by the Official Solicitor or Accountant of Court on behalf of looked-after children have been re-allocated to a different provider following concerns about investment performance. [322393]

Bridget Prentice: 15.12 per cent. of Child Trust Funds (969) managed by the Official Solicitor have been reallocated to a different provider following concerns about investment performance. At the time of the review of providers, the Official Solicitor acted as the registered contact for 6,076 children's Funds. To date, the Official Solicitor manages 6,406 Funds.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will place in the Library a copy of the benchmark results of the Civil Service People Survey for his Department. [322574]

Ann McKechin: The 2009 People Survey results are now available in the Library. Information about the survey will also be put on the Scotland Office website in due course.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan and Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel who were repatriated from Afghanistan and Iraq were seriously wounded and subsequently died in each year since the start of each conflict started in each of those countries. [322184]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since operations began in Afghanistan (2001) and Iraq (2003) up to 10 March 2010 (latest date for which data is available), a total of 17 UK armed forces personnel who were categorised as very seriously or seriously injured on operations have subsequently died following repatriation as a result of the injury sustained, as shown in the following table:

	Operation		
	Iraq	*Afghanistan*	*Total*
All	8	9	17
2001	0	0	0
2002	0	0	0
2003	2	0	2
2004	0	0	0
2005	0	0	0
2006	1	1	2
2007	5	1	6
2008	0	0	0
2009	0	7	7
2010	0	0	0

These figures include all regular and reservist personnel, and include personnel repatriated to countries outside of the UK.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has received reports of UK armed forces' Bowman radio equipment being recovered from Taliban combatants in Afghanistan. [321729]

Bill Rammell: The Ministry of Defence has not received reports of Bowman radio equipment belonging to UK armed forces being recovered from the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Air Force: Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many RAF aircraft of each type were *(a)* in service, *(b)* in the forward fleet and *(c)* fit for purpose on the latest date for which figures are available. [319493]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is shown in the following table. The figures shown are the average for January 2010 and have been rounded to the nearest aircraft.

"In service" has been taken to mean the effective fleet, which includes all aircraft barring those which are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal. The Forward Fleet comprises aircraft which are serviceable and those which are short-term unserviceable. Short-term unserviceable aircraft are undergoing minor works, forward maintenance or any other unforeseen rectification work that can arise on a day-to-day basis. Serviceable aircraft available to the front-line commands for operational and training purposes on a given date are termed available. The number of aircraft available in individual fleets varies according to normal fleet management activities including requirements for mandated maintenance and upgrade programmes and the larger variations are explained in the table.

Aircraft type	*In service fleet*	*Forward fleet*	*Available*	*Notes*
BAe 146	2	1	1	
BAe 125	6	6	4	
C-17	6	5	4	
Dominie	9	7	5	
Harrier	74	50	48	The Harrier fleet continues to progress with the GR9 upgrade programme.
Hawk T1	129	85	68	A number of Hawk T1 aircraft are being held in long-term storage for future use by the RAF Aerobatic Team (Red Arrows) and others require depth servicing.

Aircraft type	*In service fleet*	*Forward fleet*	*Available*	*Notes*
Hawk T2	17	6	3	Hawk T2 aircraft being held are in storage pending the introduction of a new flying training course.
Hercules C130K	14	7	5	A number of aircraft in the K fleet were in depth maintenance.
Hercules C130J	24	18	12	For the J Fleet, aircraft were in depth maintenance, on trials or undergoing unscheduled maintenance or rectification after returning from operational theatres.
Nimrod MR2	6	5	2	The number of aircraft in the service fleet is being reduced as the out of service date approaches. Other issues include work generated through safety inspections and to maintain serviceability.
Nimrod R1	2	1	1	One Nimrod R1 has been retired and is awaiting disposal.
Sentinel	5	3	1	The Sentinel fleet was affected by a technical issue, which is now being resolved.
Sentry	5	4	2	The Sentry fleet had an unanticipated requirement for fleet engine changes in December which was still being implemented during January.
Tornado F3	22	12	12	Tornado F3 numbers are being reduced as the aircraft is progressively withdrawn from service.
Tornado GR4	137	102	98	
Tristar	9	5	3	
Tucano	93	47	32	A number of Tucano aircraft are being held in long term storage as they are not required for training purposes.
Typhoon	64	42	40	Tranche 2 aircraft deliveries continue and some of the in-service fleet are currently undergoing a process of upgrade.
VC10	15	13	6	As a result of the severe weather conditions during January there were occasions when aircraft movements around the airfield were reduced. As a consequence aircraft repairs and maintenance tasks took longer than normal thereby reducing availability.
Vigilant	65	64	64	
Viking	82	81	81	

Armed Forces: Bomb Disposal

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on explosive ordnance disposal *(a)* training and *(b)* equipment from (i) his Department's core budget and (ii) the contingency reserve in each year since 2005. [321706]

Bill Rammell: The Ministry of Defence's accountancy systems do not support calculations of aggregate expenditure on all explosive ordnance disposal equipment and training over the last five years. A complete answer to the question could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Cadets

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding has been allocated to cadet forces in Shrewsbury for 2010-11. [322273]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information is not held centrally.

Funding for any particular area comes from a wide variety of sources including the single services, the use of subsidised facilities, and local donations and fundraising efforts. To determine how much funding has been allocated to a specific unit would require a manual search of records and would therefore incur disproportionate cost.

The Government remain committed to the Cadet Organisation whose origins date back 150 years. It is one of the oldest and most successful voluntary youth organisations in the world. Today it numbers 131,000 young people, led by 25,000 adult volunteers, in well over 3,000 sites across the country.

Armed Forces: Discharges

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of personnel of each of the armed forces were administratively discharged in each year since 2001. [320773]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 5 March 2010]:* The term administrative discharge is applied to those service personnel who are to be dismissed from the armed forces for which there is no specific exit category. Service personnel may be administratively discharged as a result of a range of factors including: civil conviction, failing to maintain a level of physical fitness to pass a fitness test despite undertaking remedial training, financial mismanagement, persistent poor conduct and failing a random drug test. The following tables provide information on the total administrative outflow since 2001:

Table 1: Administrative discharges in respect of the naval service

Naval service	*Administrative discharge*	*Proportion of all discharged (percentage)*
2001-02	1,500	28.4
2002-03	1,420	29.6
2003-04	1,320	28.3
2004-05	1,350	29.6
2005-06	1,130	25.9
2006-07	1,000	23.1
2007-08	1,090	24.6
2008-09	660	23.0

Table 2: Administrative discharges in respect of the Army

Army	*Administrative discharge*	*Proportion of all discharged (percentage)*
2001-02	6,460	45.5
2002-03	6,950	48.5
2003-04	7,230	50.7
2004-05	6,940	47.1
2005-06	6,070	43.1
2006-07[1]	6,750	47.7
2007-08	[2]—	[2]—
2008-09	[2]—	[2]—

[1] Data are for an 11 month period from legacy systems prior to JPA.

[2] Not held centrally.

Table 3: Administrative discharges in respect of the Royal Air Force

Royal Air Force	*Administrative discharge*	*Proportion of all discharged (percentage)*
2001-02	750	16.5
2002-03	990	23.3
2003-04	1,210	29.9
2004-05	940	25.3
2005-06	730	15.9
2006-07[1]	1,660	32.7
2007-08	1,950	38.7
2008-09	1,360	31.6

[1] Introduction of new administrative discharge procedures under Queen's Regulations

Note:

Data have been rounded to the nearest 10.

All data have been gathered from legacy systems and JPA. The Army are continuing data cleansing and improvement exercises. As a result figures are not held centrally, at this time, in respect of those Army personnel administratively discharged after 2006.

Armed Forces: Rescue Services

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the C-130 Hercules has been chosen as a replacement aircraft for the Nimrod MR2 for UK-based long-range search and rescue missions. [321290]

Bill Rammell: The C-130 Hercules has not been chosen as a replacement aircraft for the Nimrod MR2 for UK-based long-range search and rescue missions. The Nimrod MR2 will be replaced by the substantially more capable Nimrod MRA4.

Until the MRA4 enters service we intend to use other assets to undertake the long-range search and rescue role.

Defence: Procurement

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the average rate of inflation for major defence procurement projects in each of the last five years. [322036]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 12 March 2010]:* In response to observations by the House of Commons Defence Committee (pages 41 to 42 of the HCDC Fifth Report of the 2007-08 session on the Ministry of Defence's Annual Report and accounts 2006-07, published in January 2008 (HC 61), the Department has carried out a two year programme of work to develop a robust measure of defence inflation.

The results of this work will be published on Defence Analytical Services and Advice's website on 30 March 2010 at 9.30 am as an Official Statistic at:

www.dasa.mod.uk

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to deter theft from within the Department. [322644]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) has actively promoted a number of crime reduction initiatives throughout the Ministry of Defence (MOD). One such initiative is the "office watch" scheme, which encourages the safeguarding of MOD offices and MOD property by raising awareness of staff, in relation to their own and others' personal property, as well as property of the MOD. The MDP also have 63 community based Beat Officers, who are trained crime reduction officers working in MOD establishments across the country. These officers provide an effective deterrent to potential criminals, by raising the awareness of staff, service personnel, service families and contractors. At sites where there are no trained MDP crime reduction personnel present, all staff, and also contractors and visitors, are encouraged to work together to make their places of employment and homes safer and more secure.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library an unclassified copy of the 7th Armoured Brigade Post Operation Tour Report of Op Telic 1. [321705]

Bill Rammell: Post operational tour reports are not intended for external publication and unclassified versions are not produced. This information could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nimrod Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the first Nimrod MRA4 to enter service; and if he will make a statement. [321966]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The first Nimrod MRA4 production aircraft was accepted by the Ministry of Defence on 10 March 2010. The aircraft will initially be used for pilot and rear crew training and is then expected to enter service with the RAF in mid 2010.

TRANSPORT

Cycling

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what information his Department holds on which local authorities make cycle training available to *(a)* the general public and *(b)* schools; and what proportion of schools in providing local authorities are receiving cycle training programmes. [321420]

Mr. Khan: Most if not all local highway authorities offer some level of cycle training to both adults and children.

In addition the Department for Transport supports and funds National Standard cycle training which is predominately delivered in England as 'Bikeability' training. The Department provides a maximum grant of £40 per child to be trained to Level 2 on the National Standard and we recently announced funding of over £12 million for local authorities and School Sports partnerships for 2010-11.

The Department does not hold information about the proportion of members of the public and schools being offered cycle training. However a table has been placed in the Libraries of the House providing the information which the Department holds on the proportion of Year 6 pupils being offered training to the National Standard by those authorities delivering that training through Department for Transport grants awarded in 2009-10 and their own funding. The Department does not fund cycle training in London boroughs as the responsibility for cycle training in London rests with Transport for London.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* disciplinary and *(b)* capability procedures have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed in his Department in each of the last five years; how much time on average was taken to complete each type of procedure in each such year; how many and what proportion of his Department's staff were subject to each type of procedure in each such year; and how many and what proportion of each type of procedure resulted in the dismissal of the member of staff. [320621]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport comprises a central Department and seven agencies. The following table provides details of how many disciplinary and capability procedures have been initiated and completed in the Department over the past five years. It should be noted that the figures on capability dismissals include trainee driving examiners who undertake the entrance course but do not go on to qualify as driving examiners and are not included in the capability cases specified in category *(b)* of the table.

	2009-10	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*
(a) Discipline	101	143	139	54	8
(b) Capability	18	17	5	4	1
Dismissal discipline	9	6	11	12	5
Dismissal capability	10	14	9	12	1

The Department does not routinely record the time taken to complete each type of procedure in each year nor how many and what proportion of staff were subject to each type of procedures in each year. This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. The total number of staff in February 2010 in the Department and its agencies is just over 19,000.

Two of our agencies, the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and the Government Car and Despatch Agency, do not record this information centrally and could collate the information only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Energy

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department plans to take to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010. [319101]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport will participate in the Earth Hour event.

The event occurs outside of normal departmental working hours and as such we expect the majority of our sites to already be in a state of near darkness. However, to emphasise the importance of this event any maintenance works or activity during Earth Hour will be curtailed where it is practical to do so.

This event has also been promoted to staff across the Department and its agencies.

Electric Motors

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he plans to extend the plug-in car grant to electric-powered motorcycles and scooters; and if he will make a statement. [322688]

Mr. Khan: Passenger cars are by some distance the biggest source of emissions from road transport, forming almost 60 per cent. of total UK domestic CO_2 transport emissions compared to less than 1 per cent. by powered two wheelers. As such, the focus of the Plug-In Car Grant is on cars where it will have the biggest impact on greenhouse gas emissions from road transport. We recognise that electric motorcycles offer environmental benefits compared to conventional motorcycles and they are already zero rated for vehicle excise duty purposes and exempt from fuel duty. Electric motorcycles and scooters should be able to access the majority of recharging infrastructure installed as part of the £30 million Plugged-In Places framework.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many vehicles were exempt from vehicle excise duty as a result of having been first registered prior to January 1973 in each of the last five years. [320879]

Paul Clark: The following table provides the number of licensed vehicles that were exempt from vehicle excise duty on the 31 December in each of the last five years as a result of having been manufactured prior to January 1973. These figures are for Great Britain.

	Number of vehicles
2004	322,842
2005	318,300
2006	307,406
2007	303,943
2008	302,891

Data for 2009 will be published at the end of April 2010.

Railways: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) whether Coventry city council has submitted to his Department a business plan for development under the Nuneaton, Coventry, Kenilworth and Leamington (NUCKLE) project which includes a station at the Ricoh Arena; and what recent discussions his Department has had with Coventry city council on the production of a future business plan in connection with the NUCKLE project; [321821]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of the timing of submission of business plans in connection with the NUCKLE project on the *(a)* timetable for delivery and *(b)* costs of the project. [321822]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has had recent discussions with Coventry city council about producing a business plan in connection with the NUCKLE project. From this, I understand that they are proposing to submit a major scheme business case shortly. As a result, the Department has not made an assessment of the effects of the timing of submission of business plans.

Railways: Tickets

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the effect on the cost of off-peak rail travel in the London borough of Bexley of the implementation of the Oyster pay-as-you-go agreement. [322453]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has made no specific analysis of this effect on the London borough of Bexley. Before the launch of Oyster Pay As You Go, some high level analysis was carried out on the likely effects of Pay As You Go fares changes across London as a whole. Within that analysis there were both positive and negative effects, but overwhelmingly those who had been disadvantaged can switch to Pay As You Go and get the best value fares available for their time of travel.

Railways: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the *(a)* open full, *(b)* average and *(c)* lowest advance purchase fare available to the general public was for rail travel between York and London in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available, expressed in (A) cash and (B) real terms. [322098]

Chris Mole: Typically over 75 per cent. of long distance rail journeys are made using discounted tickets. The cheapest York London Advance fare today is £10 single. In 1996 it was £34 in simple cash terms. Around under 20 per cent. of longer journeys are made with Anytime Returns. In 1996 the Standard Class Anytime fare was £102, it is now £223.

The regulated Off Peak Return in 1996 was £57. This now costs £83.70, and is cheaper in real terms, having increased by less than the change in RPI since 1996. An operator specific Off Peak Return costing £61 is also available.

Roads: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when the Secretary of State's approval for the form of the fixed penalty notice to be used in cases of highway obstruction under the London Local Authorities and Transport for London Act 2003 was first sought; on how many subsequent occasions his Department has discussed that matter; and when he expects to be in a position to decide on the form of the fixed penalty notice. [322046]

Mr. Khan: Responsibility for this matter was transferred to the Department for Transport from the Government Office for London in 2007. The Secretary of State expects to be in a position to approve the form of the fixed penalty notice later this year.

Rolling Stock

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many short forming trains were run by each train operating company in each week of the last six months. [321485]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 10 March 2010]:* Only certain train operators are required to report the number of trains short-formed, and do so as part of a contractual monitoring regime. The Department does not hold information for operators whose franchise agreement does not require this.

For those that are required to report short-formed services, the numbers for the six most recent four-weekly reporting periods are shown in the following table:

	2009				*2010*	
Train operator	*Aug-Sept*	*Sept-Oct*	*Oct-Nov*	*Nov-Dec*	*Dec-Jan*	*Jan-Feb*
First Capital Connect	147	134	196	71	92	309
National Express East Anglia	39	25	20	63	33	79
Southeastern	81	110	98	176	395	287
Crosscountry Trains	117	63	70	78	121	107
London Midland	843	120	476	701	375	207
East Midland Trains	95	32	51	100	98	59
Southern	[1]—	50	40	51	91	70
Northern	243	226	149	186	270	332

[1] A new franchise agreement commenced on 20 September 2009 and equivalent data was not previously reported

For the operators shown above, the total number of services operated from which short-formed trains are reported, is shown in the following table. In some cases, operators are not required to monitor and report all services operated.

	2009				*2010*	
Train operator	*Aug-Sept*	*Sept-Oct*	*Oct-Nov*	*Nov-Dec*	*Dec-Jan*	*Jan-Feb*
First Capital Connect	20,582	20,767	20,203	18,421	16,661	20,644
National Express East Anglia	45,778	46,610	45,974	45,383	38,867	45,642
Southeastern	44,373	44,540	44,580	44,526	36,349	49,715
Crosscountry Trains	7,442	7,530	7,429	7,654	5,790	7,749
London Midland	31,391	32,601	31,298	31,722	28,162	32,607
East Midland Trains	11,761	11,732	11,727	11,657	10,642	11,955
Southern	[1]—	6,680	6,676	6,675	3,483	5,966
Northern	4,663	4,675	4,636	4,613	4,039	4,413

[1] A new franchise agreement commenced on 20 September 2009 and equivalent data was not previously reported

WALES

Unemployment

10. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the level of unemployment in Wales. [321817]

Mr. David: The Government's extra investment in jobs, education and training is making a real difference in Wales. Latest labour market statistics show the employment level in Wales rising by 7,000 from the previous quarter.

11. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent estimate he has made of the level of long-term unemployment in Neath constituency. [321818]

Mr. Hain: Despite the worst global economic recession in the last 60 years, this Government's action has ensured that long-term unemployment in Neath is over 60 per cent. lower than it was in 1997, with long-term youth unemployment over 40 per cent. lower.

Industrial Action

12. **Mr. Pelling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many days were lost to industrial action in Wales in 2009. [321819]

Mr. David: Figures for 2009 are currently not available. However, in 2008, the number of working days lost to industrial action in Wales was 55,000. This was just over 7 per cent. of the total working days lost in the United Kingdom (759,000) in 2008.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1303W, on departmental internet, what the cost was of the website redesign. [321923]

Mr. Hain: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Monmouth (David T. C. Davies) on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 643W.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many designs for its *(a)* internal website and *(b)* intranet his Department has commissioned since 2005; and what the cost was of each such design. [321977]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office does not have an internal website or intranet. Staff have access to the Ministry of Justice intranet site.

Incinerators: Merthyr Tydfil

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and *(b)* Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on the effect on the UK Government's waste and sustainability strategy of the proposed construction of a 50MW, open grate, waste-to-energy incinerator near Merthyr Tydfil fuelled by non-recyclable waste and the likely effect of the importation of such fuel stock by sea to proposed receiving and transfer stations located at Welsh ports. [322323]

Mr. Hain: I have regular discussions with UK and Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on a range of issues including sustainability.

Both UK and Welsh Assembly Governments recognise that recovering energy from waste can play an important part in helping to meet Government commitments to tackle climate change, improve our energy security and create new business and job opportunities. Both Governments also recognise the need to take into account a range of factors when taking decisions on such proposals.

I understand the planning application for the proposed construction of an energy-from-waste incinerator at Merthyr Tydfil is being considered by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC), who consider all applications in England and Wales where a plant has electrical capacity greater than 50MW. It would therefore be inappropriate for me to comment on this development further while it is in planning stages, except to say that the generation of energy from waste is highly desirable compared with depositing waste in landfill which is completely unsustainable

Notice of the application and details of the scoping exercise for the proposed project can be viewed at:

http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/?page_id=202

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Contingencies Emergency College

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when she last visited the Civil Contingencies Emergency College at Hawkshill, near Easingwold; and if she will make a statement. [321865]

Tessa Jowell: I have not yet visited the Emergency Planning College. The college is currently engaged in a major project within the Government's Operational Efficiency Programme to develop a commercial partnership with Serco in order to allow it to deliver maximum benefit to the resilience of the UK while achieving greater efficiency. In view of the exceptional demands on the college's management team during the transition stage, I do not think the time is right for a ministerial visit at this particular stage.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 698W, on departmental internet, what the cost was of the website redesign. [321935]

Tessa Jowell: The design referred to in the answer of 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 698W, was provided by in-house resource at no cost.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many designs for its *(a)* internal website and *(b)* intranet her Department has commissioned since 2005; and what the cost was of each such design. [321992]

Tessa Jowell: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of Cabinet Office.

The *(a)* internal website and *(b)* intranet are classed as the same website for the purpose of this response.

The Department has commissioned one redesign of its intranet home page since 2005. In March 2009 the Cabinet Office replaced its PDF staff newsletter, 'Inside', with an online news service. This work was carried out by an external agency at a cost of £10,245 plus VAT. This spend only relates to the Department's intranet.

No designs have been commissioned for the intranet for No. 10 Downing street since 2005.

Unemployment

John Mason: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of people in *(a)* Glasgow East constituency and *(b)* the UK are unemployed. [321879]

Angela E. Smith: The information falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck ,dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of people in (a) Glasgow East constituency and (b) the UK are unemployed. (321879)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics in line with International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS). However, due to the small sample size, no reasonable estimate is available for Glasgow East.

As an alternative, in table 1, we have provided the number and proportion of persons, of working age, claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), in January 2010, for (a) Glasgow East constituency and (b) the United Kingdom, from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment and unemployment are available from the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number and proportion of persons, of working age, claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in Glasgow East parliamentary constituency and the United Kingdom

Not seasonally adjusted

	Glasgow East[1]		*United Kingdom*[2]	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
January 2010	4,022	7.2	1,654,025	4.3

1. Proportions for constituencies in Scotland, from 2007 onwards, are calculated using the mid-2006 resident working age population.
2. Proportions for regions and countries from 2009 onwards are calculated using the mid-2008 resident working age population. This is different from the headline claimant count figures which are seasonally adjusted and use a denominator based on workforce jobs and claimant count to calculate the claimant count rate.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Administrative System

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carbon Monoxide: Poisoning

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps she plans to take to reduce the incidence of carbon monoxide poisoning. [322248]

Jonathan Shaw: The primary focus of Government work to reduce the incidence of carbon monoxide poisoning is to ensure that consumers use competent engineers to undertake work on their appliances. The Gas Safe Register, established by HSE in 2009, provides consumers with a clear route to find competent engineers and works to promote better public awareness of gas safety risks and the dangers arising from carbon monoxide. Since 1 April 2009 the Gas Safe Register have been undertaking a significant gas safety and carbon monoxide awareness raising campaign aimed at consumers, including national TV and online advertising, coverage on consumer programmes and national and regional radio and newspaper reporting.

There are other complementary Government work streams relating to carbon monoxide, including the Department for Communities and Local Government's recent consultation on amendments to the Building Regulations which proposed the compulsory installation of carbon monoxide alarms when a new or replacement solid fuel appliances are installed, a Health Protection Agency's study to assess the effectiveness of campaigns in increasing the knowledge of CO and Department of Health research into the long term effects of exposure to carbon monoxide.

Additionally, the Cross Government Group on gas safety and CO awareness, which covers all combustion fuels, aims to share knowledge and information and develop effective strategies to improve gas safety and tackle carbon monoxide risks from all fuels.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which companies were contracted by her Department for the provision of temporary staff in each of the last three years; how many temporary staff were employed by her Department in each such year; and what the monetary value was of contracts with each such company in each such year. [317995]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 22 February 2010]*: The DWP has a contract with Brook Street for the provision of temporary staff since September 2007; prior to this the service was contracted through Reed Employment plc (full UK coverage) and Hays Specialist Services (London only).

The expenditure and numbers of temporary staff were as follows:

	2007-08		*2008-09*		*2009-10 (year to date December)*	
	Expenditure (£ million)	*Headcount (average)*	*Expenditure (£ million)*	*Headcount (average)*	*Expenditure (£ million)*	*Headcount (average)*
Total	6.48	unknown	10.2	[1]270	4.6	[1]215
Brook Street	0.076	—	3.5	—	4.6	—
Reed	0.432	—	0.312	—	0	—
Hays	4.5	—	3.5	—	0	—
Other	1.48	—	2.9	—	0	—

[1] Headcount figures are averaged across the period noted.

The headcount for temporary staff for 2007-08 is not available centrally as DWP did not capture management information as standard across the various suppliers for the periods in question.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to deter theft from within the Department. [322658]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department takes extensive measures to protect our assets and to deter theft.

The physical security of all our premises complies with central Government security standards. The measures we use to prevent unauthorised access and to protect our assets include entry controls, pass systems, security guarding, CCTV and intruder detection systems.

All employees are required, as part of their conditions of employment, to safeguard the Department's assets, and to take care to ensure that no loss or damage occurs. Suspected thefts will, where appropriate, be referred to the police, and the Department will strongly support any ensuing police action.

All employees have been required to undertake security awareness training in the past year, which covers the protection of the Department's assets. We have issued reminders to employees to protect valuable assets and the information on them, when off the Department's premises.

We require all portable IT equipment, such as laptops and memory sticks, to be encrypted. The same applies to BlackBerry phones. This means that these items will not work if stolen.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will publish the travel guidance issued to staff of her Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies. [314929]

Jonathan Shaw: The DWP has a detailed travel policy which seeks to promote consistent and best value use of transport options by its staff. It is made available to all staff through its intranet site.

This policy is currently under review, however the full text of existing policy has been placed in the Library along with details relating to the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies.

The following non-departmental public bodies follow the Department for Work and Pensions travel guidance:

Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board
Equality 2025
Industrial Injuries Advisory Council

Pensions Ombudsman
Pensions Protection Fund Ombudsman
Social Security Advisory Committee.

Disability Living Allowance: Tribunals

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many appeal tribunals related to disability living allowance took place in each of the last five years. [322343]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The number of tribunal appeals relating to disability living allowance for each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Cases disposed of at a hearing*
April 2005 to March 2006	71,125
April 2006 to March 2007	65,088
April 2007 to March 2008	57,824
April 2008 to March 2009	53,880
April 2009 to February 2010	48,077
Total	295,994

Employment: Disabled

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disabled people living in the City of York have moved into work in each of the last three years. [321689]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disabled people living in Milton Keynes have moved into work in each of the last three years. [321870]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not available.

Government Car and Despatch Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department paid to the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last five years; how much it has spent on such payments in 2009-10; and what proportion of such payments was made in respect of the Government Car Service. [316427]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department's expenditure with the Government Car and Despatch Agency is detailed in the following table.

	£
2004-05	n/a
2005-06	390,700
2006-07	407,800
2007-08	415,900
2008-09	779,865
2009-10 (nine months to December)	479,497

The Department does not hold this information for 2004-05. The data for 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 relate to the use of ministerial cars and the car for the permanent secretary only. The expenditure for 2008-09 and for the first nine months of 2009-10 includes all departmental expenditure with the Government Car and Despatch Agency. The proportional split of expenditure the Government Car Service could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Housing Benefit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what expenditure her Department has incurred on the local housing allowance scheme since it was introduced. [316798]

Helen Goodman: The available information is in the table.

Local housing allowance expenditure

	In cash terms (£ million)
2004-05	199
2005-06	332
2006-07	379
2007-08	422
2008-09	1,863

Source:
Local authority subsidy claims.

In 2004-05 nine Pathfinder local authorities piloted the local housing allowance. In 2005 the pilot was extended to 18 local authorities.

From April 2008 the local housing allowance was used by all 408 local authorities for new claims from renters in the deregulated private sector, replacing the Local Reference Rent scheme.

The Department also provided around £9 million of funding to the Pathfinder local authorities, and £59 million to fund the administrative costs of national implementation.

Housing Benefit: Scotland

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Fife and *(b)* Scotland receive local housing allowance. [322401]

Helen Goodman: The available information is in the table.

Housing benefit recipients—local housing allowance tenants: Great Britain November 2009

	Number
Scotland	52,590
Fife local authority	3,470

Notes:
1. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
2. Local housing allowance tenants may include a small number of non-LHA cases making a new claim since 7 April 2008. This will include recipients in caravan accommodation.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
5. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and November 2009 and are the most recent available.
6. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases. An extended payment is a payment that may be received for a further four weeks when they start working full-time, work more hours or earn more money.
7. Data from SHBE incorporate the local authority changes from 1 April 2009.

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Housing Benefit: Young People

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people under the age of 19 years who are not in employment, education or training are living in supported housing schemes; what assessment she has made of the effects of housing benefit levels on the prospects of such people obtaining employment; and if she will make a statement. [320878]

Helen Goodman: The information requested is not available. Figures on the total number of young people under the age of 19 years who are not in employment, education and training and living in supported housing schemes are not collected centrally.

The Government are committed to ensuring that there are suitable employment and training opportunities for all and that the system of working age benefits provides effective support for people to return to work. Young people are a specific priority. In December 2009 we published 'Investing in Potential', our cross-Government strategy for increasing the proportion of 16 to 24-year-olds in education, employment or training.

Housing benefit is an income-related benefit designed to help people who rent their home and have difficulty in meeting reasonable housing costs. There is no age restriction and it can be paid to people whether or not they are working or training. Full-time students in non-advanced and further education who are aged less than 21 may also get housing benefit. We have recently launched the Working Benefits campaign to help advisers explain to their clients the in-work support that this benefit can offer and make it clear that help with housing costs is still available to people in work or training on a low income.

On 15 December 2009 we launched the consultation document 'Supporting People into Work: The next stage of Housing Benefit Reform' which examines how housing benefit might play a part in encouraging people to work. It contained proposals that will improve incentives for people to get a job, building on an on-going programme of IT projects and financial help designed to smooth the transition for our customers as they move into work.

Many single young people aged under 25 will have the amount of their rent which is eligible for help with housing benefit restricted to the amount they would pay on a shared room basis, regardless of the property they rent. This reflects the fact that this group commonly have earnings prospects well below those of older people and addresses any possible disincentive to work that may arise from meeting high rent levels a person could not afford while in work.

However the housing benefit rules recognise the additional costs that might arise from the provision of supported housing. For this group no account is taken of a person's age in working out what help is available and help for those living in the social and voluntary sectors is usually based on the contractual rent.

Occupational Pensions: Regulation

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason the cost to businesses of external advice to comply with the provisions of the Pensions Act 2008 was not included in her Department's estimate of the cost to the private sector. [318523]

Angela Eagle: The Workplace Pension Reform Regulations Impact Assessment, published January 2010, makes clear we have not calculated the costs to employers of seeking external advice, as the regulations do not require employers to seek such advice on how to implement or comply with the reforms.

The Government are working closely with both the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority and the Pensions Regulator and already have plans in place to provide employers with information and support both before and during the implementation of the reform. The Pension Regulator's communication and education campaign is being designed to help employers and the intermediaries employers rely on for help, to understand what must be done to meet the new employer duties.

Employers who still choose to seek advice from external bodies on top of the information provided by the Department and the Pensions Regulator must anticipate a benefit from this advice that outweighs the cost.

Pension Credit: Glasgow

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of pension credits in Glasgow East constituency; and what the average weekly payment was in the latest period for which figures are available. [321880]

Angela Eagle: The information is as follows:

Recipients of pension credit in the Glasgow, East constituency, August 2009

	Number/£
Individual beneficiaries	9,340
Households recipients	7,850
Average weekly award of pension credit (£)	60.56

Notes:

1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
3. Pension credit is claimed on a household basis. The average weekly award of pension credit is in relation to the household.
4. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Pension Credit: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Milton Keynes receive *(a)* basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit; and what the average weekly amount of pension credit received is. [321869]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is in the following table.

Milton Keynes local authority

	Date	*Number/£*
People in receipt of basic state pension	March 2009	29,200
Individual beneficiaries of pension credit	August 2009	8,820

Milton Keynes local authority

	Date	*Number/£*
Households in receipt of pension credit	August 2009	7,200
Average weekly award of pension credit (£)	August 2009	57.98

[1] Numbers in receipt of Basic State Pension rounded to nearest 100.
[2] Pension credit caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
[3] Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
[4] Pension credit is claimed on a household basis. The average weekly award of pension credit is in relation to the household.
[5] Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Sources:

Basic State Pension

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, [illegible] per cent sample. The figures have been adjusted in line with the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data.

Pension Credit

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pension Longitudinal study 100 per cent. date

Pension Credit: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in City of York local authority area receive *(a)* basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit; and what the average weekly amount of pension credit received is. [321690]

Angela Eagle: As at March 2009, there were 36,800 recipients of the basic state pension in York local authority.

Notes:

1. Figures are subject a high degree of sampling error and should be used as a guide.
2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample

The information requested on the number of recipients of pension credit in York local authority and the average weekly award of pension credit received is in the following table:

As at August 2009	*Number/£*
Individual beneficiaries	8,010
Households recipients	6,650
Average weekly award of pension credit (£)	47.51

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
3. Pension credit is claimed on a household basis. The average weekly award of pension credit is in relation to the household.
4. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what requirements apply to people found to have committed benefit fraud to repay money defrauded; and what mechanisms are in place to recover the money in such cases; [322731]

(2) whether a claimant who has committed benefit fraud is required to repay the sum defrauded before making a further claim for benefit. [322734]

Helen Goodman: The Department seeks to minimise the amount of fraud arising in the system. Proportionally, fraud in the benefit system is now over 60 per cent. less than it was in 2000-01.

When benefit fraud is discovered the resultant overpayment is pursued in all cases and priority is given to fraud cases to ensure that the time delay between discovery and recovery is kept to a minimum. The mechanics of the recovery of the overpayment will vary depending on the value of the debt and the circumstances of the customer, but will include one or more of the following:-

Compulsory recovery from ongoing benefit entitlement;

Recovery by lump sum or instalment for those no longer in receipt of benefit;

Seizure of assets under the Proceeds of Crime Act;

Compensation order awarded by the courts;

Referral to a private sector partner to undertake debt recovery where appropriate; and

Enforcement of the debt through civil court where appropriate.

A customer is not required to repay the sum defrauded before making a further claim to benefit, though we would take deductions from future benefit payments to recover the debt. The maximum rate for recovery of overpayments arising from fraudulent activity is greater than it is for ordinary overpayments.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many fraudulent benefit claims were detected in each of the last five years; how many such cases resulted in *(a)* administrative penalties, *(b)* cautions, *(c)* prosecutions and *(d)* convictions in each of these years; and how many of those convicted received a (i) custodial sentence, (ii) community sentence and (iii) discharge in each of these years; [322732]

(2) what sanctions are available to her Department with respect to people found to have committed benefit fraud; and how many and what percentage of people found to have committed benefit fraud received each type of sanction in each of the last five years. [322733]

Helen Goodman: The Department for Work and Pensions has three criminal sanctions available for use in cases of benefit fraud. These are cautions, administrative penalties and criminal prosecutions.

In addition, the 'Two Strike' 13 week loss of benefit sanction applies to those who have been convicted twice of benefit fraud within a set period. From 1 April 2010 the Department will also be able to apply a 'One Strike' four week loss of benefit sanction to those who have been convicted of benefit fraud for the first time, as well as to those who have accepted an administrative penalty or caution.

If a benefit claim is confirmed as fraudulent following an investigation, one of the above criminal sanctions will be applied in all cases. The figures provided in the following tables represent the number of fraudulent benefit claims detected in each of the last five years.

The available information for both Department for Work and Pensions and local authority administered benefits is provided. Information on local authority prosecutions and convictions is not yet available for 2008-09.

Department for Work and Pensions administered benefits

	Number of administrative penalties issued	*Number of cautions issued*	*Number prosecuted for benefit fraud*	*Number of convictions for benefit fraud offences*
2004-05	8,510	9,997	10,295	9,219
2005-06	10,870	10,543	10,262	8,740
2006-07	9,810	11,976	8,964	6,861
2007-08	8,566	12,821	10,274	7,745
2008-09	7,160	14,320	8,840	6,700

Sources:
1. Administrative penalty and caution data is taken from the Fraud Information by Sector system (FIBS) and the Fraud Referral and Intervention Management System (FRAIMS).
2. Prosecution and conviction data for England and Wales is taken from DWP/DH Legal Group's computerised information system.
3. Prosecution and conviction data for Scotland is taken from FIBS and FRAIMS.

Local authority administered benefits

	Number of administrative penalties issued	*Number of cautions issued*	*Number prosecuted for benefit fraud*	*Number of convictions for benefit fraud offences*
2004-05	4,496	6,649	5,544	4,683
2005-06	6,199	9,708	7,717	6,234
2006-07	6,742	10,662	6,023	5,860
2007-08	8,416	12,569	6,611	6,493
2008-09	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—

[1] Unavailable.
Note:
The decision to prosecute is taken by the appropriate local authority.
Source:
Housing Benefit Operational Database (HOBOD) using local authority administrative returns.

Information relating to how many individuals convicted of benefit fraud received a custodial sentence, community sentence or discharge is only available for Department for Work and Pensions administered benefits. The available information is provided in the following table.

Department for Work and Pensions administered benefits

	Number of convictions for benefit fraud offences	*Number of custodial sentences given*	*Number of community sentences given*	*Number of discharges given*
2004-05	9,219	601	2,492	2,652
2005-06	8,740	919	2,927	2,441
2006-07	6,861	616	2,415	1,734
2007-08	7,745	522	2,780	2,207
2008-09	6,700	467	2,507	1,516

Sources:
1. Information for England and Wales is taken from DWP/DH Legal Group's computerised information system.
2. Information for Scotland is taken from the Fraud Information by Sector system (FIBS) and the Fraud Referral and Intervention Management System (FRAIMS).

Social Security Benefits: Publicity

Mr. Horam: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her policy is on the provision of *(a)* information and *(b)* information leaflets on (i) attendance allowance and (ii) other welfare benefits in (A) post offices, (B) libraries and (C) other public places. [322255]

Helen Goodman: There is currently no contractual agreement between the Department for Work and Pensions and the Post Office for the display of leaflets about attendance allowance or any welfare benefits.

While there is no national agreement for the display of leaflets at libraries, doctors surgeries, council offices and citizens advise bureaux there are a number of routes that ensure the availability of leaflets at these locations:

> The Pension Service's local service teams, located throughout England, Scotland and Wales, have local partnerships with external organisations and formally monitor the use and availability of leaflets at 'Hard Copy Information Points' on partner premises. They also share local knowledge and experience of which leaflets are the most popular and most useful to our customers.
>
> The 62,000 subscribers to the Central Office of Information's Publicity Register receive a quarterly magazine called 'Touchbase' which provides details of current and forthcoming information campaigns. Subscribers are also able to order leaflets directly from the Department through its on-line catalogue of information products.
>
> The Department has a commercial agreement in place to provide key Pension Service and Disability and Carer Service leaflets in more than half of all doctors waiting rooms and pharmacies across the UK. The cost of this service is met directly by the Department and the information provided by it is available free of charge to the public.

Customers can also access the Department's leaflets and the latest information about benefits and services online at the Directgov website.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the merits of uprating earnings-related state pensions at the same rate as the basic state pension from April 2010. [318622]

Angela Eagle: The conventions on uprating state pensions are concerned with maintaining their price value. Had we applied those rules this year, when inflation as measured by the September retail Price Index was minus 1.4 per cent. pensioners would not have received a rise in their State pension.

However, we are committed to getting help to the 11 million pensioners in Great Britain, many of whom are facing difficulties in the current economic climate. We are determined that the fairest and most effective way was to apply an above inflation increase of 2.5 per cent. to the basic state pension. This will be worth around £1 billion to pensioners and will mean that on average state pension recipients will see an overall increase of 2 per cent. in their state pension. At the same time we have increased the pension credit standard minimum guarantee by £2.60 a week for single pensioners and £3.95 for couples to help the poorest pensioners.

By contrast, increasing additional State pension would have a widely variable effect on the help given to pensioners. For example, very elderly female pensioners receiving on average £5 of additional pension a week would only see an increase of a few pence each week on their state pension. However, others, typically younger male pensioners who had higher earnings, could see increases closer to around £4 a week. Increasing the basic state pension means that help is provided to more pensioners with a more even distribution.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Development

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has set a timetable for reaching agreement with the Local Government Association on the proposals on the shortlist produced under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 to be implemented. [321664]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 17 March 2010]*: The Government are carefully considering each of the 199 short-listed proposals submitted by the selector body, the Local Government Association (LGA) under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. We are now discussing these with the LGA as part of the process of seeking to reach agreement required by the Act.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information technology projects initiated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were cancelled prior to completion in the last 12 months; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [320430]

Barbara Follett: The Department and its agencies have not cancelled any IT projects in the last 12 months.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [322071]

Barbara Follett: The property recorded as *(a)* lost or *(b)* stolen from Communities and Local Government in the last 12 months and the estimated cost of the replacement of that property is as follows:

Departmental property reported as stolen

Five BlackBerrys—valued at approximately £1,000 (£200 each)

Six laptop computers—valued at approximately £6,000 (£1,000 each)

One mobile phone—valued at approximately £200

One mobile phone charger—valued at approximately £10

None of the information contained on laptops, or BlackBerrys was classified. However, each laptop was password protected and the BlackBerrys were both encrypted and password protected.

Employee property reported as stolen

One bottle of aftershave—nil replacement cost for the Department.

Employee property reported as lost

One Apple iPhone—nil replacement cost for the Department

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of senior civil servants in his Department were awarded a bonus in 2009; and what the *(a)* highest, *(b)* lowest, *(c)* mean, *(d)* median and *(e)* mode bonus awarded was. [320798]

Barbara Follett: The following table sets out the details of performance related payments made to senior civil servants in the Department for Communities and Local Government following the 2009 pay award, broken down into £5,000 bands.

	Details of performance related payments
Number of performance related payments made	102
Proportion this represents (percentage)	76
Highest in the range	£10,001 to £15,000
Lowest in the range	£0 to £5,000
Mean in the range	£5,001 to £10,000
Median in the range	£5,001 to £10,000
Mode in the range	£0 to £5,000

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of his Department's Board members who were civil servants working in his Department were awarded a bonus in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; and what the highest bonus paid was in each of those years. [320799]

Barbara Follett: The Communities and Local Government Board consists of eight senior civil servants (SCS) and currently five non-executive members. CLG only holds records of those who are civil servants within Communities and Local Government.

In 2008 all eight executive board members received a performance related payment. The highest payment made was in the range of between £20,000 and £25,000.

In 2009, the permanent secretary volunteered to forgo a bonus. The seven other executive members received a performance related payment. The highest payment made in the range of between £10,000 and £15,000.

An element of the Communities and Local Government overall pay award is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award for members of staff who demonstrate exceptional performance, for example by exceeding targets set or meeting challenging objectives.

Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs. The percentage of the pay bill set aside for performance-related awards for the SCS is based on recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* highest, *(b)* lowest, *(c)* mean, *(d)* median and *(e)* mode salary paid to (i) senior civil servants in his Department and (ii) his Department's Board members who were senior civil servants was following the 2009 pay award. [320800]

Barbara Follett: The following table sets out salary details of senior civil servants in the Department for Communities and Local Government following the 2009 pay award broken down into £5,000 bands.

	Within the below salary range
Highest	£175,000 to £180,000
Lowest	£55,000 to £60,000
Mean	£80,000 to £85,000
Median	£70,000 to £75,000
Mode	£55,000 to £60,000

Of these senior civil servants eight were board members in 2009, and salary details of these are set out in the following table broken down into £5,000 bands.

	Within the below salary range
Highest	£175,000 to £180,000
Lowest	£105,000 to £110,000
Mean	£145,000 to £150,000
Median	£150,000 to £155,000
Mode	n/a

n/a = Not applicable.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many senior civil servants there were in his Department at the time of the 2009 pay award; how many of them received a pay award excluding any bonuses; what the *(a)* lowest, *(b)* highest, *(c)* mean, *(d)* median and *(e)* mode pay award was; and how many such officials (i) received a fully consolidated increase in salary and (ii) received a pay award but no increase in salary. [320801]

Barbara Follett: At the time of the 2009 pay award 134 senior civil servants were included in the annual pay assessment for the main Communities and Local Government Department. Of these, 112 received a fully consolidated increase in salary and one received a non-consolidated pay award but no increase in salary.

The following table sets out the increases in salary of the senior civil servants in the Department for Communities and Local Government following the 2009 pay award, broken down into £5,000 bands.

	Within the range
Highest	£10,000 to £15,000
Lowest	£0 to £5,000
Mean	£0 to £5,000
Median	£0 to £5,000
Mode	£0 to £5,000

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Mr. Neill) of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 312-3W, on departmental pay, what contractual arrangements led to the payment of a non-consolidated sum to Mr. Falvey. [322710]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not release information about individual employee's contractual arrangements.

Homelessness: Young People

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans his Department has to increase support for young homeless people seeking permanent accommodation; and if he will make a statement. [307019]

Mr. Ian Austin: Government have recently provided £30 million capital funding over three years from Communities and Local Government that will provide up to 500 new places in Foyers and specialist supported housing through the National Affordable Housing Programme.

Since September the following allocations have been made:

Client group	*Grant (£)*	*Units*
Teenage parents	3,228,924	43
Young people at risk	6,562,003	134
Young people leaving care	90,000	2
Total for supported housing for 16 to 17-year-olds	9,880,927	179

In addition local authorities provide a broad range of assistance and support for all ages which young people will also benefit from.

The Supporting People programme provides revenue funds for local authorities to commission housing related support services for vulnerable people in their area, to enable them to develop independent living skills. Data relating to the supply of and spend on Supporting People housing related support services are collected retrospectively. The following table shows the national spend, per primary client group, for the year 2007-08 for the three 'young person' client groups reportable for Supporting People.

Supporting People spend on the three Young Person client groups

	2007-08 spend (£)
Teenage parents	23,403,241
Young people at risk	124,728,170
Leaving care	11,853,858

Housing: Sustainable Development

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of progress in the provision of affordable sustainable homes; and whether his Department was represented at the Ecobuild exhibition and conference held in London in March 2010. [322554]

John Healey: I receive regular reports on the performance of the Homes and Communities Agency programmes which promote affordable sustainable homes. For example, in 2008-09, funding was allocated through the National Affordable Housing programme to support over 50,000 homes being built to level 3 or above of the code for sustainable homes. Ninety per cent. of proposals I've approved under this year's Local Authority New Build programme are at code level 4. The Social Housing Energy Saving programme is delivering cavity wall insulation in an estimated 108,000 homes.

The Department had a stand at the Ecobuild conference and exhibition held in March in London, as it has in previous years. I spoke at the conference and my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State visited the event. Several CLG officials gave speeches, chaired sessions or were present at the Department's stand to answer questions from visitors to the event.

Non-Domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the combined rateable value of hereditaments in each local authority area is on the *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* draft 2010 Rating List. [312098]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 20 January 2010]:* I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing the total rateable value for all hereditaments in Local List for England broken down by billing authority on the 2005 and the draft 2010 Rating Lists as at 2 November 2009. These data are consistent with the statistical release titled: "Non-domestic rateable values: 2010 Local Rating Lists—England and Wales", published on 18 December 2009. A copy of this statistical release is available at the following link:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/VOA_Statistics_Release_Final.pdf

The rateable values have been rounded to the nearest £1,000.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over 1 million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases, which in 2010-11 will ensure no business property sees its rates bill increase by more than 11 per cent. as a result of the revaluation, with maximum increases capped at just 3.5 per cent. for small properties. That is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the Valuation Office Agency drew up a rating list in 2005 for port businesses. [322226]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Valuation officers are required under section 41 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 every five years (starting on 1 April 1990) to compile and then maintain accurate rating lists. New rating lists were therefore required on 1 April 2005 The circumstances leading to the review of the ports were explained in the answer given to him on 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1153W.

Planning Permission: National Policy Statements

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to publish the guidance to local authorities on National Policy Statements referred to by Baroness Andrews on 18 November 2008, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 1019. [322394]

Mr. Ian Austin: The local authorities guidance will be published in due course.

Preventing Violent Extremism Community Leadership Fund

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what projects and programmes Preventing Violent Extremism funds will be spent in Northamptonshire in 2009-10. [321647]

Mr. Malik: As my hon. Friend will be aware, this Department has, since April 2008, funded local authorities to undertake Prevent work through Area Based Grant, which in line with Government policy is not ring-fenced. This means that local authorities themselves decide how to support and deliver a diverse set of projects and programmes at local level with the Prevent funding provided by this Department. Funding is provided at a unitary or district level. Northampton borough council is receiving a total of £443,122 from 2008-09 to 2010-11, as follows:

	£
2008-09	105,000
2009-10	143,292
2010-11	194,830

The local authority will be able to provide specific information on which projects and programmes are being funded.

Supported Housing: Young People

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of young people under the age of 19 years are living in supported housing schemes; and what the maximum weekly housing benefit payable to such people is. [320880]

Mr. Ian Austin: Figures on the total number of young people living in supported housing schemes are not collected centrally. There is no universal definition of supported housing, the different data sources CLG collects contain information on different types of supported housing (therefore the two following data sets are not comparable).

Of the 32,813 clients under the age of 19 years who accessed housing related support services funded by the Supporting People programme between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009, 15,155 (46 per cent.) entered supported housing.

The Continuous Recording (CORE) of lettings provides information on the number of supported housing lettings in the social housing sector. Between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009, CORE estimates that 15,200 new supported housing lettings were provided to households headed by a young person under 19. Of all under-19s receiving new social housing lets, 60 per cent. were provided with supported housing.

Those who live in either social or voluntary sector supported housing will have their housing benefit based on their actual rent, which may be limited to a reasonable amount for the property that they occupy where necessary. In the private sector, single young people aged under 25 have their rent restricted to that of shared accommodation, unless they are severely disabled or aged under 22 and have previously been in care.

Trade Unions

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the Audit Commission are seconded to trade unions; what facilities are made available to those staff; how many days other staff of each organisation spent on trade union activity in the latest year for which figures are available; and what recent estimate has been made of the annual cost to the public purse of union activity by staff of each organisation. [320599]

Barbara Follett: The main Department pays the cost of two full-time staff trade union representatives. In 2008-09 the total cost was approximately £95,000. CLG also pays the cost of a number of part time staff. The total amount allocated for trade union activities for 2008-2009 was £192,000, and the number of days staff in the Department spent on all trade union activities was 1,075.50 days.

Basic office facilities are available to these staff e.g. office space, telephones, desks, chairs, cupboards, personal computers and stationery.

Records for CLG agencies and the Audit Commission are not held centrally.

TREASURY

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in Wolverhampton have been visited by representatives of his Department's time to pay initiative during the recent recession. [322261]

Mr. Timms: Since its introduction on 24 November 2008 and up until 7 March 2010, HMRC's Business Payment Support Service (BPSS) has agreed over 303,000 time to pay arrangements with businesses in the UK to spread tax payments of just under £5.2 billion over a period they can afford.

During the same period, BPSS agreed 990 time to pay arrangements worth £20 million with businesses in Wolverhampton.

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the monetary value of capital allowances to UK industry in the latest year for which figures are available. [322262]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The value to UK industry of capital allowances arises from the tax relief given against profits from specific capital allowances on investment. As set out in the 2009 pre-Budget report, the latest estimate of the value of the relief is £21,100 million for 2009-10:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr09_taxreadyreckoner.pdf

Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps he plans to take to reduce the number of incidents of staff misuse of customer data at HM Revenue and Customs; and by what means he plans to inform the public of such steps; [317294]

(2) what steps are being taken in respect of HM Revenue and Customs staff found to have misused customer data. [317295]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) introduced a strategic objective to reduce incidences of customer data misuse by at least 75 per cent. between 2009 and 2012. The Department's planned actions to achieve this are set out in its annual business plan, with performance against the objective set out in its annual reports, both are available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

All instances of suspected misuse are thoroughly investigated and are subject to appropriate disciplinary action, with penalties up to and including dismissal and criminal action. All departmental staff must attend mandatory training to reinforce the consequences they face in the event of misusing customer data.

Tax Collection

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of recovering a debt in respect of which the due and payable date passed more than 12 months earlier; [317310]

(2) what the *(a)* age and *(b)* likelihood of recovery is of the debt owed to HM Revenue and Customs totalling more than £27 billion at 31 March 2009; and how much such debt has been outstanding (i) less than six months, (ii) between six and 12 months, (iii) between 12 months and two years, (iv) between two and three years and (v) for more than three years since the due and payable date; [317311]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of HM Revenue and Customs' performance in the recovery of taxes owed to the Government. [317333]

Mr. Timms: The Public Accounts Committee examined the Department in its 2009-10 report: 'HM Revenue and Customs: Improving the Processing and

Collection of Tax: Income Tax, Corporation Tax, Stamp Duty Land Tax and Tax Credits' (HC 97) published on 10 December 2009 and available at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmpubacc/97/97.pdf

The Government will publish their responses to the Committee's report in a Treasury minute in due course.

The value and age of unpaid tax debts is shown on page 96 of HM Revenue and Customs' 2008-09 Trust Statement, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accs-0809.pdf

Other breakdowns of tax debt by age are available only at disproportionate cost, as HMRC's systems cannot readily produce these.

Taxation: Domicil

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what definition of long-term resident of the UK is used for the purposes of determining a person's tax status; and how many days per year are required to be spent in the UK in order to be eligible for that classification. [321406]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 9 March 2010]:* The term 'long-term resident' only occurs in UK tax legislation in the context of defining individuals who are required to pay the £30,000 remittance basis charge introduced in Finance Act 2008 where it refers to those who have been resident in the UK for at least seven out of the last nine years.

An individual's residence status depends upon a number of different factors and is not simply a question of the number of days spent in the UK. Further guidance on residence and domicile issues is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/cnr/hmrc6.pdf

Taxation: Gaming Machines

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of gaming machines in public houses which are not subject to Amusement Machine Licence Duty (AMLD); what representations he has received in respect of the proposal to extend AMLD to include such machines; whether he has *(a)* sought and *(b)* received advice from the Gambling Commission on the practical arrangements for regulating such machines; and if he will make a statement. [320949]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not hold information on the nature of the businesses in which gaming machines are located as this information is not necessary for the administration of Amusement Machine Licence Duty (AMLD).

Treasury Ministers meet with, and receive representations from, a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

On 26 February, the Government announced a four-month review of "skills with prizes" machines and the games played on them for the purposes of AMLD. This will be undertaken by HM Treasury and HMRC in consultation with the Gambling Commission and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The review will engage fully with all stakeholders.

Trade Unions

Mr. Syms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many days staff of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(c)* the Valuation Office Agency spent on trade union activity in the latest year for which figures are available; and what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of such activity. [320616]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury has one member of staff, grade 7, who spends 0.60 (FTE) of time working as a trade union official. As fewer than five staff are employed to work as union officials it is not HM Treasury policy to provide salary information that could be attributed to an individual.

As already released in a Freedom of Information Request of 25 September 2009, staff of HM Revenue and Customs spent 48,902 days on trade union activity during the year 2008-09 at an estimated cost to the Department of £5,918,065.

The total number of days allocated to staff in the Valuation Office Agency for trade union activity in the latest year was 4,861 days. The estimated cost of the Valuation Office Agency trade union activity is £756,193.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many legal proceedings have been instigated for recovery of tax credit overpayments in each quarter since April 2003; what the average overpayment outstanding is for which legal action has been instigated; what the total monetary value is of such overpayments; what estimate he has made of the average cost to the public purse of pursuing such cases through the courts; and how much has been recovered through court action. [317146]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) initiates court action only as a last resort.

The information requested is in the following table.

Tax credit cases entered into Court by HMRC

	Number	Total Value (£)	Average Value (£)
2008-09[1]			
April-June 2008	1,090	7,649,000	7017
July-September 2008	2,623	18,032,000	6874
October-December 2008	887	6,465,722	7289
January-March 2009	1,719	10,889,145	6334
2009-10[2]			
April-June 2009	792	4,184,128	5282
July-September 2009	408	1,854,732	4545
October-December 2009	249	2,356,757	9464

Notes:

[1] Includes England and Wales and Scotland

[2] Includes England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

Information for 2006-07 and 2007-08 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost, as the data for these periods are not centrally held by HMRC's systems.

No estimate has been made of the cost to the Exchequer of pursuing tax debt through Court Proceedings.

Information of the amount recovered through court action is only available at disproportionate cost, as HMRC systems do not separately record the amount recovered as a result of court proceedings as distinct from the amounts recovered from all stages of the enforcement process.

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in how many individual tax credit cases which involved overpayments made in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08 the claimants were prosecuted by his Department for the purposes of recovering such overpayments in each year in which such prosecutions were initiated. [317581]

Mr. Timms: The recovery of tax credit overpayments is a civil matter. Therefore, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not prosecute but may seek action to recover tax credit debt through the county court system in England and Wales, the Sheriff's court in Scotland and the magistrates court in Northern Ireland. This is only done as a last resort.

For information on the number of actions commenced in 2006-07 and 2007-08 I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Cardiff Central (Jenny Willott) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1926W. Information for years prior to 2006-07 is only available at disproportionate cost, as it is not centrally held by HMRC's systems.

HMRC can and does prosecute for fraud.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many properties are *(a)* owned and *(b)* leased by the Equality and Human Rights Commission; what the cost to the Commission was in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many people work at each property. [321391]

Maria Eagle: The EHRC is independent and it manages its own affairs; the following is based on information it has provided.

(a) No properties are owned by the Commission.

(b) 10 properties are currently leased by the Commission. The Commission will release one of these with effect from 1 April 2010 and is actively seeking to release a further three from its portfolio. In addition the Commission rents space in six Government Offices and the Scottish Government in Edinburgh.

The cost of these arrangements was £3.6 million per annum in 2009.

The numbers of people who work at each office location are shown in the table. Figures are taken from the EHRC estates review presented to the EHRC Board in December 2009 and are the latest available.

	Headcount[1] *(total)*	*FTE*[2] *(total)*
Office		
1. London (3 More London)	162	155.01
2. Manchester	209	193.09
3. Birmingham	54	49.59
4. Buckingham Palace Road London	6	5.54
5. Glasgow	43	40.38
6. Cardiff (Callaghan Sq)	39	34.47
7. Bangor	3	3.00
Vacant property		
8. Edinburgh (Old Tun)	0	0
9. Cardiff (Ty Nant Court)	0	0
10. London (Fox Court)	0	0
Government Offices		
Bristol	2	2.00
Cambridge	3	3.00
Guildford	3	3.00
Leeds	3	3.00
Newcastle	3	3.00
Nottingham	4	4.00
Scottish Government		
Edinburgh	1	1.00
Edinburgh/Glasgow split	6	6.00
Total	541	506.08

[1] Headcount equals number of EHRC employees excluding those on maternity leave, secondment out or career breaks.

[2] FTE equals full time equivalent.

Notes:

1. Six employees work between both Glasgow and Edinburgh sites.
2. The Buckingham Palace Road lease expired in April 2010 and staff are being transferred to the London HQ at 3 More London.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Butterfly World Project

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent meetings Ministers and officials in his Department have had with representatives of Butterfly World Project Ltd. [320852]

Margaret Hodge: Neither Ministers nor officials from this Department have met with Butterfly World Project Ltd., as neither the people involved in running this world class attraction nor the local Member of Parliament have asked for a meeting.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* disciplinary and *(b)* capability procedures have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed in his Department in each of the last five years; how much time on average was taken to complete each type of procedure in each such year; how many and what proportion of his Department's staff were subject to each type of procedure in each such year; and how many and what proportion of each type of procedure resulted in the dismissal of the member of staff. [320636]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not had any capability procedures initiated and completed in each of the past five years. The Royal Parks Agency has had two capability procedures initiated and completed in the past five years, neither of which resulted in the dismissal of staff.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has had three disciplinary cases initiated and completed in the past five years, resulting in two dismissals. The Royal Parks Agency has had two disciplinary cases initiated in the last five years, one of which has been completed, neither resulting in dismissal.

Neither the Department nor Agency keep a record of time spent on such cases.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [322072]

Mr. Sutcliffe: During the last 12 months the following items were recorded as lost or stolen.

Item	*Date*	*Recorded lost or stolen*	*Estimated cost of replacement (£)*
Blackberry	April 2009	Stolen	200
Secure remote access token	June 2009	Lost	12.75
Disc drive	June 2009	Lost	25
Laptop	July 2009	Stolen	800
Blackberry	July 2009	Lost	200
Blackberry	July 2009	Lost	200
Laptop	July 2009	Stolen	800
Blackberry	October 2009	Stolen	200
Mobile phone	October 2009	Stolen	120
Secure remote access token	November 2009	Lost	12.75
Secure remote access token	December 2009	Stolen	12.75
Blackberry	February 2010	Stolen	£200

During the last 12 months the following works of art have been reported missing from the Government Art Collection and are as yet un-located.

Works of Art	*Date*	*Reported missing*	*Estimated cost of replacement (£)*
The Cathedral Church of St. Peter in Chichester print by Leonard Knyff	March 2009	Reported missing from Department for Children, Schools and Families Sanctuary Buildings, London	250
Bambridge on Trial for Murder by a Committee of the House of Commons print after William Hogarth	April 2009	Reported missing from the Royal Courts of Justice, London	200
The Railway Station print after W.P. Frith	April 2009	Reported as missing from DEFRA, Ashdown House, London	600
Derby Day print after W.P. Frith	April 2009	Reported as missing from DEFRA, Ashdown House, London	600
Leaving painting by David Pugh Evans	May 2009	Reported missing from British Deputy High Commission, Lagos, Nigeria	500
House Plant 2/25 1971 print by Boyd & Evans	May 09	Reported missing from British Deputy High Commission, Lagos, Nigeria	500
Evening Menu 31/70 1975 print by Patrick [illegible]lfield	May 2009	Reported missing from British High Commission, Abuja, Nigeria	1600
Untitled string hanging by Peter Collingwood	May 2009	Reported missing from British High Commission, Abuja, Nigeria	3000

Museums and Galleries: Newcastle upon Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) whether Arts Council England has agreed a business plan for the Waygood Art Galley project, High Bridge, Newcastle; [321040]

(2) how much *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital funding Arts Council England has allocated to the Waygood Gallery project, High Bridge, Newcastle to date. [321041]

Margaret Hodge: To date Arts Council England has been unable to agree a business plan with the Waygood Gallery. Arts Council England has formally notified the Waygood Gallery that it is considering withdrawing revenue funding from the organisation. The final decision on Waygood Gallery's long-term funding will be made by Arts Council England's north-east regional council on 31 March 2010. The Arts Council and Newcastle city council are committed to working closely together to ensure the successful opening of the studios on High Bridge.

Since 2001, £630,380 was allocated to Waygood Gallery through Arts Council England's Regularly Funded Organisation programme and a further £49,778 was awarded through Arts Council England's lottery funded Grants for the Arts scheme.

£130,000 was allocated directly to Waygood Gallery from Arts Council England's capital budget.

Museums and Galleries: South West

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what grants were awarded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council to non-hub designated museums in the South West in 2009. [321199]

Margaret Hodge: The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has supplied the information in the table of Renaissance grants awarded to non-designated museums in the South West in 2008-09.

Designated collection holder	*Grant (£)*
Cheltenham Art Gallery	14,608
Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum	14,133
Tank Museum	15,000
Wiltshire Heritage Museum	15,000
National Waterways Museum	15,000
Roman Bath Museum	10,000

In the 2009-10 financial year, two further grants have been announced by the MLA for non-designated museums in the South West and shown in the table.

Designated collection holder	*Grant (£)*
Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum	100,000
Tank Museum	50,000

Theatre: Young People

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to encourage young people to use the *(a)* free theatre tickets available under the A Night Less Ordinary Scheme and *(b)* the National Theatre Entry Pass. [320524]

Margaret Hodge: The Department provided Arts Council England with £2.5 million to deliver the A Night Less Ordinary scheme. This included a budget for the promotion of the scheme, including the creation of the website:

www.anightlessordinary.org.uk

Individual theatres were also assessed on their plans to market the scheme in their local area during the application process.

The National Theatre Entry Pass scheme is administered solely by the theatre. The Department does not centrally promote either scheme.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many young people have registered for the National Theatre Entry Pass to date. [320660]

Margaret Hodge: To date, 14,814 young people have registered for the National Theatre Entry Pass.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Rural Payments Agency in making payments to farmers on time; and if he will make a statement. [321975]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As of 25 February 2010 over 98,000 farmers from the estimated total claimant population of 107,500 have received a full Single Payment Scheme (SPS) payment from the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). 90 per cent. of the estimated total fund of £1.86 billion has now been paid for SPS 2009.

Some 2,000 of the remaining claims have been processed and resulted in no payment being due. This situation arises where, for example, farmers hold entitlements for the wrong area type, have submitted duplicate claim forms or will receive payment from the devolved Administrations.

Processing now continues on approximately 7,500 claims where no payment has been made to date and RPA is working to finalise these as quickly as possible. Some of these are complex cases involving probate, business partnership changes and domestic issues. It is likely that work on these claims will reveal that some will not be eligible for payment. Claims which are confirmed will be paid as soon as possible.

The agency met its first 2009 SPS target of making 75 per cent. of full payments by value, six weeks ahead of its formal target date of the end of January 2010. It has now met the second of its formal targets of making 90 per cent. of full payments, by value, five weeks ahead of its formal date of the end of March 2010.

RPA is on track to meet its EU target of making 95.238 per cent. of payments by value by the close of the payment window on 30 June 2010.

The following table shows the agency continues to improve in making SPS payments.

Scheme year	*75 per cent. of payments made by value*	*90 per cent. of payments made by value*
2007	22 February	21 May
2008	22 January	16 March
2009	17 December	24 February

Processing continues on claims from all previous scheme years where no payment has been made to date and RPA is working to finalise these as quickly as practicable. The following table shows a summary of these claims.

Single Payment Scheme year	*Number of claims outstanding as at 10 March 2010*	*Number of claims not received full payment as at 10 March 2010*
2005	3	574
2006	6	629
2007	33	55
2008	84	100
Total	[1]126	1,358

[1] Included within the 126 outstanding claims are three (2005), five (2006), 29 (2007) and 64 (2008) claims that are complex cases involving probate, business partnership changes and domestic issues. It is likely that work on these claims will reveal that some will not be eligible for payment.

Claims which have not received a full payment may be due a top-up payment once their entitlements have been reviewed. Further such claims may arise from data correction work within the Rural Payments Agency.

Animal Feed

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has estimated the effect on *(a)* the price of animal feed and *(b)* the population of fish of a reduction in the organic content of organic animal foods to below 90 per cent. following the reclassification of fish as a non-agricultural ingredient; and if he will make a statement. [322660]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Under EU rules, up to 5 per cent. of the diet of organic livestock other than herbivores may currently consist of non-organic feed. After 1 January 2012 all organic livestock must be fed entirely on organically produced feed and there are concerns about providing a 100 per cent. organic diet with a balanced protein content for pigs and poultry because of the difficulties with sourcing the correct protein ingredients for feed for these animals. We are currently investigating with our Advisory Committee on Organic Standards how the use of fishmeal might contribute to a solution for the problem, including the effects on the price of animal feed and the sustainability of fish stocks from which the fishmeal is sourced.

Animal Welfare

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to reply to the correspondence from Mr. Richard D. Hall of Blaydon on animal mutilation phenomena. [321206]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA and its agency, Animal Health, received several items of correspondence from Mr. Hall between May and September 2009, both directly and through my hon. Friend. I replied to my hon. Friend on 19 October, 2009 and regret the intervening delay.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the use of bolt guns to end the life of *(a)* domestic animals and *(b)* livestock; and if he will make a statement. [322281]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In the last six months we have received three letters from members of the public and 15 from Members of Parliament on behalf of constituents regarding the use of bolt guns to end the lives of domestic animals. We have received no such letters on the use of bolt guns on livestock.

Biomass: Air Pollution

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by what mechanisms emissions from biomass boilers will be made compliant with his Department's Air Quality Strategy. [322265]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The aim of the air quality strategy for the UK is to protect public health by providing mechanisms for compliance with a number of air pollution concentration objectives.

The impact of emissions of biomass boilers on air concentrations of pollutants will depend on the dispersion characteristics of the installations and the number of installations affecting any particular location. Guidance has been provided to local authorities, through the British Standards Institution and the Institute of Gas Engineers and Managers on how to apply good design and placement of chimney location and exit height to prevent significant impacts of units on air quality.

Local authorities, in order to protect public health, have a number of existing powers to guide the outcome of developments incorporating biomass boilers through both the planning system and powers under the Clean Air Act 1993. Taken together with the Renewable Heat Incentive, which encourages the uptake of cleaner appliances, the impact of biomass boilers on air quality should be managed to avoid concentrations in excess of air quality objectives.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of trends in the incidence of bovine tuberculosis in *(a)* England and *(b)* Gloucestershire; and if he will make a statement. [321974]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The latest bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) figures available for the first 11 months of 2009, compared with the equivalent period in 2008, show the following:

	England	*Gloucestershire*
Reactors slaughtered		
2008	23,631	2,169
2009	23,068	2,031
New herd breakdowns		
2008	3,766	273
2009	3,125	198
Confirmed new incidents per 100 test in unrestricted herds		
2008	5.46	13.69
2009	4.69	10.93

Notes:
1. Data from VetNet are produced three months in arrears and the latest report available is for November 2009. Comparative 2008 data are shown up to November 2008. Therefore data cannot be provided for the last three months.
2. Data from VetNet are provisional and subject to change as more data become available.

Source:
VetNet—Animal Health Database

Although the apparent year-on-year reduction in bTB incidence headline indicators (despite the increase in numbers of herds and animals tested for bTB in 2009) is welcome, the Government remain cautious and does not want to read too much into the short-term disease trends, given the cyclical and multifactorial nature of bTB incidence in the endemic areas. The incidence of bTB in parts of England is still far too high for EU standards and we continue to take the fight against the disease very seriously, not least because of the serious impact it has on farmers.

We have a range of measures in place to help control spread of the disease including routine cattle testing, use of the gamma interferon blood test in prescribed circumstances, pre-movement testing, zero tolerance on movement of cattle with overdue tests and encouraging use of husbandry measures. In addition, vaccination of cattle and/or badgers is potentially a valuable tool as part of a range of measures to control bTB. A Badger Vaccine Deployment Project will take place in six high incidence areas each of 100 sq km (25,000 acres) in England, starting in summer 2010.

Breeding of Dogs Act 1991

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Breeding of Dogs Act 1991; [322458]

(2) what funding his Department provides to local authorities to inspect outbuildings for breeding establishments under the Breeding of Dogs Act 1991; [322460]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the incidence of illegal dog breeding taking place in residential properties and outbuildings; [322461]

(4) what recent representations he has received from animal welfare charities on backstreet breeding of dogs; and if he will make a statement; [322462]

(5) what estimate he has made of the number of dog breeding farms in England. [322524]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have not made any recent assessment as to the effectiveness of the Breeding of Dogs Acts1991. Any future assessment we make of current dog breeding legislation will be conducted in parallel with our consideration on the two recent reports into dog breeding by Professor Sir Patrick Bateson and the Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare. We have regular discussions with animal welfare groups on a range of welfare topics, including the breeding of dogs.

We have provided no such funding to local authorities to inspect outbuildings for breeding establishments, we have made no assessment of the incidence of illegal dog breeding taking place on residential properties and outbuildings, and we have made no estimate of the number of dog breeding farms in England.

Cattle: Animal Welfare

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which assessment has been made of the effects on animal welfare of keeping dairy cattle in *(a)* very large herds and *(b)* herds kept largely under a roof. [321319]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA is currently funding a three-year project by the Scottish Agricultural College which is investigating the management and welfare of continuously housed cows. It will compare the health of cows in continuously housed systems with those in summer grazing systems, by using culling and fertility data. Work on this research is at an early stage, and is due to be completed at the end of June 2011.

In relation to herd sizes, in reviewing its risk model for welfare inspections, Animal Health, the body responsible for enforcing animal welfare legislation in England, did not include the size of the herd as a predictive factor to the model as no correlation was found between the size of the herd and compliance with welfare legislation and welfare advisory codes.

All dairy cattle, in whatever system they are kept, are protected by comprehensive animal welfare legislation. In England, the welfare of cattle is protected by the Animal Welfare Act 2006 which makes it an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to any animal. The Act also contains a duty of care to animals—this means that anyone responsible for an animal must take reasonable steps to make sure the animal's needs are met. These general requirements are supplemented by detailed requirements in the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 for calves and cattle such as accommodation, tethering, inspection, feed and water.

Poor welfare can exist in both intensive and extensive systems. The most significant influence on the welfare of livestock is the stock-keeper, not the system in which is it reared.

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of local authorities' statutory responsibilities for stray dog control under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005; [322465]

(2) what assessment he has made of the impact of the dog control provisions in the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 on animal rescue centres. [322466]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA has made no such assessment.

Dairy Farming

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to introduce a maximum size for dairy herds. [322052]

Jim Fitzpatrick: While we recognise the trend is towards fewer, larger dairy herds, we have no plans to introduce proposals on a maximum size for dairy herds.

Dogs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received from animal welfare charities on stray dog control services. [322467]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In the past year DEFRA has corresponded with the Association of Dogs and Cats Homes, The Dogs Trust and the Battersea Dogs and Cats Home about stray dog control services.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the total dog population in England; and if he will make a statement. [322468]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA has made no such estimate.

Dogs: Crime

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many prosecutions there were for offences of each type under the Breeding of Dogs Act 1991 in 2009; and if he will make a statement; [322459]

(2) how many prosecutions there have been for dog control offences under the Town and Police Clauses Act 1847 in each year since 1997; [322463]

(3) how many prosecutions there have been for dog control offences under the Metropolitan Police Act 1839 in each year since 1997. [322464]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under, (i) Breeding Dogs Act 1991, (ii) Town and Police Clauses Act 1847, in England and Wales 1997 to 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

The Ministry of Justice Court Proceeding database cannot separately identify offences relating to dogs under the Metropolitan Police Act 1839.

The Ministry of Justice advise that court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication in the autumn of 2010.

Number of defendants proceeded against for selected offences relating to dogs, England and Wales 1997 to 2008[1,2,3]

Offence description	*Offences in relation to dogs*	*Intentionally obstructing or delaying any person in the exercise of his powers of entry or inspection*
Statute	Town Police Clauses Act 1847, Sec 28(2) to (4)	Breeding of Dogs Act 1991
1997	10	1
1998	9	1
1999	14	—
2000	8	1
2001	8	—
2002	7	—
2003	8	—
2004	1	—
2005	4	—
2006	4	—
2007	3	—
2008	1	—

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

Floods: Maps

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the work of his Department in preparing the Ordnance Survey flood maps first published in April 2010 was funded; and if he will make a statement. [322439]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA does not produce Ordnance Survey flood maps. The Environment Agency publishes its maps showing the most up-to-date information available on areas at risk of flooding on a quarterly basis. The next date for publication is the end of March 2010. The map and publication is funded by grant in aid from DEFRA.

DEFRA is aware of a project initiated by Norwich Union working with Ordnance Survey to map flood risk, but this project has not been funded by DEFRA.

Government Car and Despatch Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department paid to the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last five years; how much it has spent on such payments in 2009-10; and what proportion of such payments was made in respect of the Government Car Service. [316785]

Dan Norris: The Department's cumulative spend with the Government Car and Dispatch Agency in each of the last five years and for the current year to January 2010 is shown in the following table.

	Total (£)
2004-5	758,687.35
2005-6	1,198,282.79
2006-7	906,287.79
2007-8	709,682.06
2008-9	694,574.07
2009-10[1]	543,727.83
Grand Total	4,811,241.89

[1] Part year to February 2010

Costs to the Department for ministerial cars are reported annually to Parliament by my right. hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport through written ministerial statements and are available in the Libraries of the House.

Milk: Imports

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many litres of milk a day were imported on average in each of the last five years. [322357]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 15 March 2010]*: Imports of liquid milk are shown in the tables.

Liquid milk is imported into the UK in two forms, as raw milk for processing by dairies (table 1), or as liquid drinking milk (e.g. pasteurised or UHT milk) (table 2).

Raw milk is only traded across the Irish border; imports come from the Republic of Ireland for processing by dairies in Northern Ireland.

Table 1: UK imports of raw milk for processing, 2005 to 2009 (all imports across the Irish border)

	Imported per year (1,000 litres)	*Average imported per day (1,000 litres)[1]*
2005	45,589[P]	125
2006	33,278	91

Table 1: UK imports of raw milk for processing, 2005 to 2009 (all imports across the Irish border)

	Imported per year (1,000 litres)	Average imported per day (1,000 litres)[1]
2007	57,109	156
2008	48,516	133
2009	82,774	227

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 1,000 litres.

Source:

DARDNI

Table 2: UK imports of liquid drinking milk, 2005 to 2009[1]

	Imported per year (1,000 litres)	Average imported per day (1,000 litres)[2]
2005	47,066	129
2006	84,406	231
2007	87,668	240
2008	134,068	366
2009[1]	89,420	245

[1] 2009 data is subject to amendments.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 1,000 litres.

Source:

H M Revenue and Customs

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were for offences relating to unnecessary pain or distress caused to broiler and battery chickens in each of the last five years. [320407]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 4 March 2010]:* The information requested cannot be provided because records are not held centrally.

Rural Payments Agency

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much it cost on average for the Rural Payments Agency to process a single payment in the latest period for which information is available. [322494]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 16 March 2010]:* In their report 'A Second Progress Update on the Administration of the Single Payment Scheme by the Rural Payments Agency', the National Audit Office calculated the average cost for administering a single payment scheme claim as £1,743. We are seeking ways of reducing this figure.

Rural Payments Agency: Legal Costs

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Rural Payments Agency spent on legal advice in the last five years. [320380]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The legal expenditure for 2004-09 financial years including costs incurred by all RPA departments as published in the annual audited accounts is shown in the following table. It is not possible to distinguish between legal advice and other legal expenditure.

Financial year	Total spent on legal fees (£)
2004-05	450,849
2005-06	437,927
2006-07	185,347
2007-08	289,014
2008-09	559,812
Total	1,922,949

The increase in fees for 2008-09 is due to historic long running cases which only culminated in that financial year.

The costs incurred on the disposal of grain stores are not included in table above because they are accounted for separately. These costs are shown in the following table:

Financial year	Total spent on legal fees (£)
2004-05	65,877.02
2005-06	72,665.80
2006-07	28,730.37
2007-08	18,730.31
2008-09	15,097.98
Total	201,101.48

The figures include costs of external advice, litigation services and costs.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

1 Carlton Gardens

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Pendle of 3 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 373W, on Carlton Gardens, what plans he has to extend the lease of 1 Carlton Gardens; and how much has been paid in council tax to date on the residential element of the ministerial residence at 1 Carlton Gardens since that residence became unoccupied. [319802]

Chris Bryant: We remain in negotiations with the Crown Estate over lease renewal. £4,295.56 has been paid in council tax from October 2007 to March 2010.

Burma: Forced Labour

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received recent reports on trends in the level of forced labour in Burma; and if he will make a statement. [322608]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We continue to be gravely concerned that forced labour, including forced porterage and underage military recruitment remain widespread practices, in marked and continued non-compliance with the Convention on Forced Labour. We note the co-operation, albeit limited, of the Burmese authorities with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) under the ILO's Supplementary Understanding with the Government of Burma, which includes a complaints mechanism for victims of forced labour. We received a report from the ILO last November on progress in the implementation of the Supplementary Understanding and expect a further progress report in advance of the ILO Governing Body session on Burma next week. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials in London and Rangoon are in regular contact with the ILO liaison officer in Rangoon, and met him most recently on 15 March. The EU presidency will make a statement on behalf of member states at the ILO Governing Body next week.

Burma: Gems

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had recent discussions at EU level on the export of gems originating in Burma from Asia to Europe. [322479]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There have been no recent discussions on this issue among EU member states. Sanctions were agreed after the crackdown on peaceful protests in late 2008, and the EU imposed a ban on the import of gems from Burma, as well as prohibiting the provision of financial or technical assistance to entities engaged in the mining and processing of precious and semi-precious stones. These measures target the economic interests of the military regime and their cronies. Discussions will begin shortly in Brussels on the annual renewal of all EU measures against Burma, due at the end of April.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has made a recent assessment of the effectiveness of sanctions designed to prevent the export of gems originating in Burma to the EU. [322480]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Sanctions prohibiting the export of gems from Burma to the EU were introduced after the crackdown on peaceful protests in late 2007, on the basis that the sector played a particular role in sustaining the military and their grip on power. No formal assessment of the effectiveness of the export ban has been made by the Government, but we continue to believe that targeted sanctions are an important means of maintaining pressure for political reform and respect for human rights in Burma.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [322076]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him on 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 844W, by my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron); namely, the information required is held separately in various Foreign and Commonwealth Office departments, all of which hold records relating to various losses and thefts of both personal property and official furnishings, including IT equipment losses.

As this information is not held centrally, providing an accurate answer would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Meetings

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any of his officials were present at meetings attended by Lord Ashcroft and the right hon. Member for Richmond *(a)* between 28 March and 3 April 2007 in Belize, Brazil, the Falkland Islands, Iceland, Panama, and the Turks and Caicos, *(b)* on 18 and 19 June 2007 in Syria, *(c)* between 15 and 17 February 2008 in the United Arab Emirates, *(d)* between 13 and 15 May 2008 in Egypt, *(e)* between 20 and 23 October 2008 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Georgia, *(f)* between 2 and 4 November 2008 in Israel, *(g)* between 15 and 17 March 2009 in Cuba, *(h)* on 21 October 2009 in the USA, *(i)* on 26 and 27 October 2009 in Qatar and *(j)* between 30 November and 2 December 2009 in China and Hong Kong. [322508]

Chris Bryant: The information requested is not held centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the benchmark results of the Civil Service People Survey for his Department and its agencies. [322564]

Chris Bryant: The 2009 People Survey results are now available in the Library.

These results are also available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-us/publications-and-documents/publications1/annual-reports/staff-survey-2009

EU Countries: Overseas Workers

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the number of British citizens working in other EU member states in each of the last 12 months; [320922]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of UK citizens working under contract in other EU member states in each of the last five years. [320924]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold data on the number of British nationals working in other EU member states. The latest figures available for British nationals resident overseas were collected in March 2007. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 23 February 2010 to the hon. Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr. Davey) which shows the estimated number of British nationals resident in each EU member state during 2006-07.

Greece: Death

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has received a copy of the *(a)* coroner's, *(b)* police and *(c)* toxicology report relating to the death of Stephen Oliver; what recent discussions (i) he, (ii) officials in his Department and (iii) officials in the British Consulate in Corfu have had with the government of Greece on the case of Stephen Oliver; and if he will make a statement. [320244]

Chris Bryant: We have not received a copy of the coroner's, police or toxicology reports relating to Stephen Oliver's death. In Greece, autopsy reports are not automatically made available to the family of the deceased. If a report has not been released by the Greek coroner's office only a specifically authorised person can make an application for it. As the Greek authorities consider us to be third party in this case, we are unable to request it. The family have been advised to consider appointing the services of a local Greek lawyer who could request it on their behalf. This case has not been raised with the Greek Government by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, nor have we been asked to do so.

Intelligence Services

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish the *(a)* current and *(b)* former policy guidelines issued by his Department to officers of those intelligence services which fall within his responsibilities on interviewing prisoners abroad and on co-operating with interviews conducted by other countries; and if he will make a statement. [321503]

David Miliband: *[holding answer 11 March 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's response of 15 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 579W.

Morocco: Christianity

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the treatment of persons with connections to the Christian community in Morocco; and whether any UK citizens have been *(a)* deported and *(b)* threatened with deportation from Morocco in the last six months. [322049]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our ambassador in Rabat was informed on the evening of 8 March that 12 British citizens were about to be, or had been, expelled from Morocco.

Ten of these British citizens were accused of trying to convert Moroccan children living at the Village of Hope, a Christian run home for abandoned children, to Christianity. Two other individuals were also expelled, separately to those from the Village of Hope.

In the last six months five other UK citizens have been deported from Morocco. These cases were linked to immigration matters not proselytising. We are not aware of any UK citizens that have been threatened with deportation.

Nigeria: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Nigeria on violence in the vicinity of Jos; [322102]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Christian community from Jos. [322103]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We condemn the appalling recent violence in the vicinity of the city of Jos, and call for the Government of Nigeria to ensure those responsible for crimes are prosecuted, and to address the underlying issues behind the violence.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not recently discussed violence in Jos with the Government of Nigeria, nor representatives of the Christian community there. I raised our concerns with Chief Ojo Maduekwe, the Nigerian Foreign Minister on 15 March. Our High Commissioner in Abuja and senior Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have discussed the issue at Ministerial level, including with the Secretary to the Government of the Federation on 8 March as well as with representatives of the Christian community, including Catholic Archbishop Kaigama of Jos and Archbishop Onaiyekan of Abuja. Our High Commission also remains in touch with Anglican Archbishop Kwashi of Jos.

Overseas Residence: Death

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens have died whilst working in Corfu in each of the last three years. [319758]

Chris Bryant: We do not keep records for the specific number of British citizens who have died while working, but the number of deaths requiring consular action in Corfu were:

	Number
2006-07	30
2007-08	23

The total number of deaths reported to the vice-consulate was:

[illegible]: 15

Sudan: Elections

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department is providing to seek to ensure free and fair elections in Sudan. [322713]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our assistance towards elections in Sudan remains in line with that set out to my hon. Friend by my hon. Friend the Minister of State, Department for International Development (Mr. Thomas) on 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 895W.

We have continued to urge all parties to ensure that credible elections take place in an atmosphere of political freedom. My noble Friend, the Minister for Africa, Glenys Kinnock, met with EU Chief Observer, Veroniqe De Keyser this week to discuss plans for the EU Election Observation Mission in Sudan.

UN Commission on the Status of Women

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outcomes were of the 54th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women; and if he will make a statement. [322591]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The 54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women met at the UN from 1-12 March. The UK, along with other member states and representatives of non-governmental organisations and UN bodies, participated actively in the meeting, including at ministerial level.

The Commission reviewed progress in implementing the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the internationally agreed agenda for women's empowerment and gender equality, and identified the remaining obstacles and challenges to the full realisation of all human rights by women. The Commission adopted a political declaration in which member states pledged to work harder to ensure the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration. In addition, the Commission also adopted a number of resolutions on issues including HIV/AIDS; female genital mutilation; women's economic empowerment; and maternal mortality and morbidity. It also agreed a text supporting the establishment of a new UN body devoted to gender equality and women's rights through the consolidation of four existing UN offices which work on gender issues.

The UK remains committed to working with all other UN member states including through the Commission on the Status of Women to achieve gender equality and equal rights for women.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Lancashire

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons his Department requested Lancashire county council to remove Whitworth Community High School from its Building Schools for the Future bid. [315557]

Mr. Coaker: Lancashire county council's 'Readiness to Deliver', submitted in September 2009, did not sufficiently address how its proposals for BSF would manage the issue of surplus capacity in some of its schools. Whitworth Community High School in particular has a projected high level of surplus capacity.

The authority was invited to revise its 'Readiness to Deliver'. Rather than delay entry into the programme, the authority chose to resubmit a revised scope of schools which did not include Whitworth Community High School, with the intention of addressing the pupil place planning issues in a later phase.

Children in Care: Missing Persons

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have gone missing from local authority care in each local authority in each of the last five years. [320758]

Dawn Primarolo: The information has been placed in the House Libraries.

Children: Carers

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's latest estimate is of the number of children unable to attend full-time education because they care for others in their family; and if he will make a statement. [320838]

Dawn Primarolo: These data are not held centrally.

Supporting young carers and their families is a priority for this Government. Young carers, like all children and young people, are entitled to enjoy their childhood and should not have to take on levels of caring that may be harmful to their education or health. Where young carers and their families need additional support this should be provided.

Children: Databases

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether ContactPoint uses *(a)* unique pupil numbers and *(b)* unique learner numbers to identify children. [319611]

Dawn Primarolo: A unique identity number is used to identify each child record on ContactPoint. This number is generated by ContactPoint and is only used for the purposes of identifying a record on ContactPoint.

Unique pupil numbers and unique learner numbers are not held as part of every ContactPoint record. It is possible however, for either of these numbers to be sent to ContactPoint with new information supplied by a data source as their chosen reference number. This can be any number used by the data source to identify a record on their system and is used to help match new information to an existing record on ContactPoint. For example all information supplied to ContactPoint by the National Pupil Database has the unique pupil number included as the source system's reference number.

Children: Human Trafficking

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to introduce a system of guardianship for child victims of trafficking. [320760]

Dawn Primarolo: The issue of guardianship for unaccompanied minors, some of whom may be victims of trafficking, was given careful consideration in the last session of Parliament during the debates on the Children and Young Persons Act 2008.

Unaccompanied, potentially trafficked children will usually enter local authority care and their needs and interests are best protected by the professionals involved in their care working well together and fulfilling their statutory responsibilities to the high standards required. These professionals will include the child's social worker and carers, as well as staff responsible for supporting them to make their claim for asylum in the UK. Each child must also be allocated an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) who is responsible for chairing regular reviews of their care plans. IROs must make sure that the child understands the plan for their care and is able to take an active part in making this plan. The IRO will need to make a relationship with each child to help them understand the full range of their rights and entitlements, including their right to access independent advocacy support.

The addition of a "guardian" to this framework risks adding further complexity and possible duplication to existing arrangements which involve a significant number of professional and concerned individuals. This could be confusing for children themselves and we need to ensure plans for their care and for processing their claims for asylum are effectively co-ordinated.

Free School Meals

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals at the age of 15 progressed to a sixth form college in the most recent year for which figures are available. [318471]

Mr. Coaker: According to estimates from the DCSF matched administrative dataset around 9 per cent. of young people (or 7,000 out of 77,000) who had been in receipt of free school meals age 15 in 2006/07 were in full-time education in sixth form colleges in England in 2007/08. In addition another 37 per cent. were studying in FE colleges and 22 per cent. in schools sixth forms making a total of 68 per cent. in full-time education. This compares with a rate of 60 per cent. in full-time education in 2004/05 for the cohort who had been in receipt of free school meals age 15 in 2003/04.

Further Education

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to provide the same funding to further education students on the same course at a college and a school sixth form. [321864]

Mr. Iain Wright: Funding for students in colleges and school sixth forms has increased 72 per cent. in seven years. We have delivered our commitment to close the funding gap for like for like learning between schools and colleges by 8 percentage points by the end of the 2008/09 academic year, and we are committed to closing it further as funding allows. Our policy priority is to fund the September Guarantee to ensure every 16 and 17-year-old who wants one has a suitable place in education and training.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to take steps to ensure that funding allocations to further education students on the same course at a college and in school sixth form are made at the same level. [322249]

Mr. Iain Wright: Funding for students in colleges and school sixth forms has increased 72 per cent. in seven years. We have delivered our commitment to close the funding gap for like for like learning between schools and colleges by 8 percentage points by the end of the 2008/09 academic year, and we are committed to closing it further as funding allows. Our priority is to fund the September Guarantee to ensure every 16 and 17-year-old who wants one has a suitable place in education and training.

Funding allocations for 2010/11 are currently being finalised and have been made on the same funding rate basis as the 2009/10 allocations. This was in order to fully fund the September Guarantee in increasing 16 to 18 participation to a record 1.6 million learner places, and to meet the Department's 2010-11 efficiency savings commitment.

GCSE

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has made an assessment of the merits of adapting GCSE courses and assessments to take account of the requirements of students. [321288]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is for Ofqual as the independent regulator of qualifications to set criteria for the development by awarding bodies of GCSE assessments to a common standard. Working to those criteria awarding bodies can seek to adapt their exam specifications to meet the needs of different learners to whom they offer exams. It is for Ofqual to regulate the resulting qualifications.

Section 129 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 sets out the general duties of Ofqual. It requires Ofqual to have regard to the reasonable requirements of those who are seeking to obtain or who might reasonably be expected to seek to obtain regulated qualifications, including th[illegible] with learning difficulties But it also makes it clear that speaking a different language to that from the language of the teaching or assessment does not itself constitute a learning difficulty.

GCSE: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of year 11 pupils at state schools in Leeds city area achieved five or more A* to C GCSEs in each year since 1992; [306596]

(2) what percentage of year 11 pupils at state schools in Leeds West constituency achieved five or more grade A* to C GCSEs in each year since 1992. [306598]

Mr. Coaker: The requested figures are provided in the following table for all maintained schools including academies and City Technology Colleges. Figures before 1997 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Percentage of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving 5+ A-C GCSEs or equivalent*[1]

Year[2]	*Leeds West constituency (school location based)*	*Leeds local authority*
1997	24.2	37.4
1998	20.3	37.9
1999	22.5	39.4
2000	25.2	40.4
2001	20.9	39.6
2002	22.7	42.4
2003	25.7	44.4
2004	26.1	45.4
2005	32.4	49.7
2006	38.7	52.2
2007	40.5	55.9
2008	49.3	62.5
2009[3]	53.0	67.4

[1] From 1997/98 includes GNVQ equivalences and from 2003/04 includes other equivalents approved for use pre-16.

[2] Percentages are based on pupils aged 15 from 1997 to 2004. From 2005 onwards, percentages are based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

[3] Figures for 2009 are based on revised data while earlier years are final figures.

Hotels

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many separate bookings for stays at five star or above hotels were made through the Expotel contract by his Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [315254]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Hotel bookings for stays at five star or above hotels made by the Department for Children, Schools and Families using Expotel for the period 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009 is:

One booking at cost of £100.75.

Data have been provided by Expotel.

Mass Media: GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals sat GCSE media studies in 2009. [315524]

Mr. Coaker: In 2009, 60,047 pupils at the end of key stage 4 were entered for GCSE examinations in media, film and television studies. Of these 7,314 pupils were known to be eligible for free school meals, 52,715 were not eligible for free school meals and there were 18 pupils for whom free school meal eligibility could not be determined.

These figures relate to pupils in maintained schools only, including CTCs and academies. Information collected on free school meals forms part of the School Census which is only carried out in maintained schools. This free school meal information is then linked to attainment data. It relates to those pupils known to be eligible to receive free meals rather than those in receipt of free meals.

National Curriculum Tests

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children in the 10 per cent. *(a)* most and *(b)* least deprived areas of the country achieved at least level (a) 2, (b) 2b and (c) 3 in each subject at Key Stage 1 in each year since such assessments were introduced. [317743]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is given in the following tables for 2004 and 2009. Figures for all years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pupils in maintained schools[1] achieving Level 2 or above at Key Stage 1 by IDACI decile[2] [3] of pupil residence[4] in 2004[5] [6] and 2009[5]

		Most deprived 10 per cent.	*Least deprived 10 per cent.*
Key Stage 1 Reading			
2004	Number	57,187	48,131
	Percentage	74.9	93.4
2009	Number	55,540	43,583
	Percentage	75.9	93.0
Key Stage 1 Writing			
2004	Number	53,885	47,165
	Percentage	70.7	91.6
2009	Number	51,967	42,636
	Percentage	71.0	91.0
Key Stage 1 Mathematics			
2004	Number	64,002	49,537
	Percentage	83.9	96.1
2009	Number	60,663	44,760
	Percentage	82.9	95.6
Key Stage 1 Science			
2004	Number	62,159	49,663
	Percentage	81.2	96.3
2009	Number	58,977	44,864
	Percentage	80.6	95.8

[1] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including Academies and City Technology Colleges).
[2] Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index.
[3] IDACI bands for 2008 and 2009 are based on 2007 IDACI scores. Care should be taken when comparing to IDACI tables for 2007 and earlier which are based on 2004 IDACI scores.
[4] Only includes pupils who are resident in England. Excludes pupils with missing or invalid postcode information.
[5] Data are final.
[6] In 2004, new assessment arrangements where only teacher assessments (informed by task/test results) were reported were trialled in some LAs. 2004 figures for reading, writing and maths are based on a combination of test/task and teacher assessment, 2005 and later are based on teacher assessment. 2004 Science figures are based on teacher assessment only.

Pupils in maintained schools[1] achieving Level 2B[2] or above at Key Stage 1 by IDACI decile[3] [4] of pupil residence[5] in 2004[6] [7] and 2009[6]

		Most deprived 10 per cent	*Least deprived 10 per cent.*
Key Stage 1 Reading			
2004	Number	43,298	43,273
	Percentage	56.7	84.0
2009	Number	43,922	39,648
	Percentage	60.0	84.6
Key Stage 1 Writing			
2004	Number	35,961	39,251
	Percentage	47.2	76.2
2009	Number	33,841	34,952
	Percentage	46.2	74.6
Key Stage 1 Mathematics			
2004	Number	48,211	44,916
	Percentage	63.2	87.2
2009	Number	45,392	40,104
	Percentage	62.0	85.6

[1] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including Academies and City Technology Colleges).
[2] Level 2B can only be achieved in Reading, Writing and Maths.
[3] Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index.
[4] IDACI bands for 2008 and 2009 are based on 2007 IDACI scores. Care should be taken when comparing to IDACI tables for 2007 and earlier which are based on 2004 IDACI scores.
[5] Only includes pupils who are resident in England. Excludes pupils with missing or invalid postcode information.
[6] Data are final.
[7] In 2004, new assessment arrangements where only teacher assessments (informed by task/test results) were reported were trialled in some LAs. 2004 figures for reading, writing and maths are based on a combination of test/task and teacher assessment. 2005 and later are based on teacher assessment. 2004 Science figures are based on teacher assessment only.

Pupils in maintained schools[1] achieving Level 3 or above at Key Stage 1 by IDACI decile[2, 3] of pupil residence[4] in 2004[5, 6] and 2009[5]

		Most deprived 10 per cent.	Least deprived 10 per cent.
Key Stage 1 Reading			
2004	Number	11,965	21,994
	Percentage	15.7	42.7
2009	Number	10,031	18,555
	Percentage	13.7	39.6
Key Stage 1 Writing			
2004	Number	6,348	12,708
	Percentage	8.3	24.7
2009	Number	4,122	9,546
	Percentage	5.6	20.4
Key Stage 1 Mathematics			
2004	Number	12,705	21,294
	Percentage	16.7	41.3
2009	Number	8,184	15,576
	Percentage	11.2	33.3
Key Stage 1 Science			
2004	Number	10,767	20,335
	Percentage	14.1	39.4
2009	Number	7,876	16,501
	Percentage	10.8	35.2

[1] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including Academies and City Technology Colleges).
[2] Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index.
[3] IDACI bands for 2008 and 2009 are based on 2007 IDACI scores. Care should be taken when comparing to IDACI tables for 2007 and earlier which are based on 2004 IDACI scores.
[4] Only includes pupils who are resident in England. Excludes pupils with missing or invalid postcode information.
[5] Data are final.
[6] In 2004, new assessment arrangements where only teacher assessments (informed by task/test results) were reported were trialled in some LAs. 2004 figures for reading, writing and maths are based on a combination of test/task and teacher assessment. 2005 and later are based on teacher assessment. 2004 Science figures are based on teacher assessment only.

Source:
National Pupil Database

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children in receipt of free school meals achieved at least level 3 in each subject at key stage 1 in each year since the introduction of such assessments. [317746]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is given in the following table.

Percentage of pupils achieving each level in key stage 1 assessments by free school meals eligibility, 2002-09: England

		Percentage of pupils achieving									
	Number of eligible pupils	Absent/ Unable	Disapplied	Working towards level 1	1	2C	2B	2A	3	4	2+
Reading											
2002	106,152	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	69
2003	102,793	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	69
2004	106,726	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	70
2005	101,276	0	0	8	22	18	24	17	11	0	70
2006	95,430	0	0	8	23	18	24	17	10	0	69
2007	94,221	0	0	8	24	17	23	18	11	0	69
2008	90,838	0	0	7	24	17	23	18	10	0	69
2009	92,439	0	0	6	23	17	24	18	11	0	71
Writing											
2002 (Writing)	106,153	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	72
2002 (Spelling)	106,151	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	61
2003	102,794	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	64
2004	108,728	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	66
2005	101,285	0	0	11	22	26	23	12	5	0	66
2006	95,430	0	0	11	24	26	22	12	5	[1]—	65
2007	94,221	0	0	11	26	26	22	11	4	0	83
2008	90,637	0	0	10	26	26	22	11	4	[1]—	64
2009	92,437	0	0	8	26	26	24	12	4	0	86
Mathematics											
2002	106,152	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	81

Percentage of pupils achieving each level in key stage 1 assessments by free school meals eligibility, 2002-09: England

		Percentage of pupils achieving										
	Number of eligible pupils	Absent/ Unable	Disapplied	Working towards level 1	1	2C	2B	2A	3	4	2+
2003	102,794	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	80
2004	108,728	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	80
2005	101,301	0	0	5	13	25	26	21	10	0	81
2006	95,430	0	0	5	14	25	26	20	8	[1]—	80
2007	94,221	0	0	5	15	23	26	21	9	0	80
2008	90,638	0	0	5	16	23	26	21	9	[1]—	79
2009	92,455	0	0	4	16	23	28	20	9	0	80
Science											
2005	101,306	0	—	3	18	—	68	—	11	0	78
2006	95,423	0	—	3	19	—	68	—	10	0	78
2007	94,218	0	—	3	19	—	68	—	9	0	77
2008	90,638	0	—	3	19	—	68	—	9	0	77
2009	92,425	0	—	3	19	—	69	—	9	0	78

[1] Indicates figure suppressed due to small cohort size.

Notes:

1. Pupil level collection of FSM eligibility began with the 2002 School Census, therefore no data is available prior to 2002.
2. Figures prior to 2004 are based on tests, 2004 are based on a combination of test and teacher assessment, 2005 and later based on teacher assessment.
3. Science figures are unavailable prior to 2005 as science test results were not collected centrally.
4. In 2003 significant changes were introduced to the assessment of writing. A separate level for spelling was not reported separately, instead marks for spelling contributed to the pupils' writing level and there was a new mark scheme for the two writing tasks.
5. Level distributions prior to 2005 are not available.
6. Percentages rounded to nearest percentage point.
7. Data covers maintained schools only.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has made a recent assessment of the correlation between teacher assessment and results in Key Stage *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 2; and if he will make a statement. [320767]

Mr. Coaker: The Department only collects teacher assessment results at the end of key stage 1 and so no such analysis is available for that key stage

An analysis of the level of agreement between the 2009 key stage 2 (KS2) teacher assessment and national curriculum test results is provided in the following tables.

Analysis of these data indicates that there is a good match between test performance and teacher assessment data. When interpreting these data, it should be borne in mind that national curriculum test and teacher assessment data will not always correlate. This is because tests provide a snapshot of attainment at the end of the key stage whereas teacher assessment takes into account evidence of attainment in a variety of contexts (such as discussion and observation), throughout the year. Both are vital to ensure rounded, and validated, assessments can be made about each child's performance.

	KS2 test level–English (percentage)			
Teacher assessment level–English	Below 3	3	4	5
Below 3	82	17	1	0
3	6	63	30	0
4	0	7	79	14
5	0	0	26	74

	KS2 test level–Maths (percentage)			
Teacher assessment level–Maths	Below 3	3	4	5
Below 3	84	16	1	0
3	7	72	20	0
4	0	8	80	12
5	0	0	13	87

	KS2 test level–Science (percentage)			
Teacher assessment level–Science	Below 3	3	4	5
Below 3	76	19	4	0
3	4	52	42	2
4	0	5	74	21
5	0	0	14	86

Note:

The figures work across the table, so for a given teacher assessment level it shows the distribution of test levels achieved. Taking English as an example, of those pupils who were teacher assessed at level 4, 79 per cent. achieved a level 4 in the test; 7 per cent. achieved one level below and 14 per cent. achieved one level higher.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on the administration of the national tests in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [320768]

Mr. Coaker: The Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency's (QCDA) estimate of the costs of delivering the national curriculum tests for key stage 1 and key stage 2 for the 2008-09 financial year was £21,755,000.00. These costs are net of the £19,500,000.00 cash settlement received by QCDA, following termination of the test operations contract with ETS Global BV (ETS) in 2008.

National Safeguarding Delivery Unit

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 312W, on "National Safeguarding Delivery Unit: Standards" in which month he expects the further progress report to be published. [319069]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Safeguarding Delivery Unit will publish its further progress report later this month.

Pupil Exclusions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils have been permanently excluded from schools in England and Wales for assaulting *(a)* a member of staff and *(b)* a fellow pupil in each of the last five years. [320547]

Mr. Coaker: The available information on reasons for a permanent exclusion is published as follows:

2003/04: Table 11

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000582/index.shtml

2004/05: Table 11

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000662/index.shtml

2005/06: Table 8

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000733/index.shtml

2006/07: Table 9

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000793/index.shtml

2007/08: Table 9

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000860/index.shtml

The latest data available are for 2007/08; information on exclusions for 2008/09 is expected to be published in the summer 2010.

Data on reasons for exclusion include information on physical assault against an adult, but not specifically against teachers or school staff.

In 2005/06, data on reasons for a permanent exclusion were collected from secondary schools only.

The Department does not hold the requested information for Wales. Information relating to Wales is available from the Welsh Assembly Government.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils have been permanently excluded from schools in England and Wales for *(a)* alcohol-related incidents, *(b)* drug-related incidents and *(c)* carrying a knife or other weapon onto school premises in each of the last five years. [320548]

Mr. Coaker: The available information on reasons for a permanent exclusion is published as follows:

2003/04: Table 11

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000582/index.shtml

2004/05: Table 11

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000662/index.shtml

2005/06: Table 8

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000733/index.shtml

2006/07: Table 9

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000793/index.shtml

2007/08: Table 9

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000860/index.shtml

Data on pupils permanently excluded for carrying a knife or other weapon onto school premises are not separately identified. There are categories for verbal abuse/threatening behaviour and physical assault.

The latest data available are for 2007/08; information on exclusions for 2008/09 is expected to be published in the summer 2010.

In 2005/06, data on reasons for a permanent exclusion were collected from secondary schools only.

The Department does not hold the requested information for Wales. Information relating to Wales is available from the Welsh Assembly Government.

Pupils: Learning Disability

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate has been made of the number of learners with a learning difficulty and/or a learning disability whose education provision will be funded by the Young People's Learning Agency in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [322358]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 15 March 2010]*: The number of learners aged 16 to 18 learning in mainstream provision with a self-declared learning difficulty and/or disability has been around 120,000 each year from 2006/07 to 2008/09 academic year. These were funded through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The figure includes 4,000 in specialist provision, and it is estimated there are around 4,000 in the age group 19 to 25 with high level needs. Estimates for future numbers are based on this evidence.

For the 2010/11 academic year responsibility for funding learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities aged 16 to 18 and between 19 and 25 with high-level needs will pass to the Young People's Learning Agency and local authorities.

Schools: Swimming

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure that all schoolchildren have access to swimming lessons within school hours. [321716]

Mr. Iain Wright: As part of the primary school national curriculum all school children receive lessons in swimming during school hours The Department's PE and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP) also funds the top up school swimming programme through a grant that enables School Sports Partnership to deliver additional swimming, during the curriculum, to pupils in Key Stage 2 who are not yet able to swim unaided over a distance of 25 metres.

September Guarantee

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his estimate is of the number of children attending school or college courses as direct result of the September Guarantee in *(a)* England and *(b)* Coventry. [321412]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 11 March 2010]:* The Department for Children Schools and Families publishes annual estimates of the number of 16 and 17 year olds participating in education and work based learning in each local authority.

Figures for *(a)* England and *(b)* Coventry are shown in the following table.

	2007	*2008*[1]
England	1,113,400	1,333,400
Coventry	7,100	n/a

[1] Provisional.

England figures for 2009 and local authority figures for 2008 are due to be published in June 2010.

The September Guarantee aims to ensure that all 16 and 17 year olds are offered a suitable place in learning. Statistics show that record numbers of young people are now participating in learning. This is enabling them to build the skills they need to make a successful transition to sustainable employment.

Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many qualified teachers below retirement age were not teaching in the state sector in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* the latest year for which figures are available. [317817]

Mr. Coaker: The following table provides the number of teachers with qualified teacher status aged below 60, the normal retirement age for those teachers who first entered service before 1 January 2007, who were not recorded in service in state maintained schools in England in March 1997, 2005 and 2008, the latest information available.

Qualified teachers aged under 60[1] *not recorded in service*[2] *in state maintained schools*[3]*, March 1997, 2005 and 2008—England*

	Teachers
1997	509,360
2005	503,410
2008[4]	483,760

[1] Teachers age at March of each year.

[2] Figures include teachers who never entered service, have left service both permanently and temporarily and those in service in other sectors or outside England. They exclude teachers who are receiving a pension or those recorded in occasional service in the state maintained sector.

[3] State maintained schools include local authority maintained schools, City Technology Colleges and academies.

[4] Provisional.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Database of Teacher Records.

Teachers: City of York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many full-time equivalent *(a)* teachers, *(b)* teaching assistants and *(c)* support staff there were in local authority schools in the City of York in each year since 1996' [322114]

(2) what the average pupil to teacher ratio was in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in York in each year since 1996. [322116]

Mr. Coaker: York became a new local authority on 1 April 1997 and therefore the information requested is not available for 1996.

The information requested for full-time equivalent teachers, teaching assistants and support staff in 1997, 2001 to 2009 is published in tables 19, 25 and 26 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) 'School Workforce in England (including local authority level figures) January 2009 (Revised)' published on 29 September 2009. The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000874/Tables19to27v2.xls

The equivalent information requested for 1998 to 2000 is published in tables 18, 23 and 24 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) 'School Workforce in England (including pupil: teacher ratios and pupil: adult ratios) January 2007 (Revised)' published on 27 September 2007. The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/SFR29_2007_FinalTables18-25.xls

The following table provides the pupil teacher ratios in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in York local authority, in each January, 1997 to 2009.

Pupil:teacher ratios (PTRs)[1] *in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools, Years: each January, 1997 to 2009, Coverage: York local authority*

	Primary	*Secondary*
January		
1997	24.3	16.3
1998	24.6	16.2
1999	23.5	16.7
2000	24.6	18.4
2001	22.9	16.6
2002	22.0	16.0
2003	22.0	16.0
2004	22.7	16.0
2005	23.0	15.6
2006	21.7	15.9
2007	21.7	16.3
2008	21.4	15.7
2009	21.6	15.7

[1] The PTR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of qualified teachers regularly employed in schools.

Source:

School Census

Teachers: Early Retirement

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers took early retirement in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* the latest year for which figures are available. [317818]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds (Mr. Ruffley) on 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 903W.

Teachers: Wolverhampton

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers were employed in state schools in Wolverhampton in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest date for which figures are available. [322259]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is published in table 19 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) 'School Workforce in England (including Local Authority level figures) January 2009 (Revised)', published on 29 September 2009. The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000874/Tables19to27v2.xls

Truancy

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools more than (i) 10, (ii) 20, (iii) 30 and (iv) 40 per cent. of pupils were classified as persistent absentees in (A) 1997 and (B) the latest year for which figures are available. [316074]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 5 February 2010]:* Information on persistent absentees is not available for 1997. The latest available information for 2007-08 is shown in the table.

Primary[1] and secondary[1, 2] schools: Number of schools by the percentage of persistent absentees[3, 4], 2007-08, England

	Number of schools	
Percentage of school enrolments who are persistent absentees[5, 6]	*Primary schools[1]*	*Secondary schools[1, 2]*
More than 10%	65	299
More than 20%	8	11
More than 30%	3	0
More than 40%	1	0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).

[3] Includes schools with at least one enrolment aged between five and 15.

[4] Persistent absentees are defined as having 64 or more sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year, typically over 20 per cent. overall absence rate.

[5] The number of persistent absentees expressed 86 a percentage of the total number of enrolments.

[6] Those schools counted in the 'more than 40 per cent.' category are also included in all the lower categories. Similarly, for the 'more than 30 per cent.' and 'more than 20 per cent.' categories.

Source:
School Census

HEALTH

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* elective and *(b)* emergency bed days were recorded in the Hospital Episodes Statistics database as having been accounted for by (i) haematological, (ii) gastrointestinal, (iii) bowel and (iv) lung cancer patients in (A) total, (B) each primary care trust and (C) each cancer network in each year since 1997-98; and what the cost was to the public purse of those bed days accounted for by patients with each type of cancer. [322244]

Ann Keen: Information on the finished consultant episode bed days in which an elective and emergency admission took place and where the primary diagnosis was lung cancer, bowel cancer, upper gastrointestinal cancer and haematological cancer has been placed in the Library.

The information has been provided for primary care trusts in England for the years 1997-98 to 2008-09. This information is not available for cancer networks.

Information on costs associated with the bed days is not available.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* admissions and *(b)* emergency admissions for (i) lung cancer, (ii) bowel cancer, (iii) upper gastrointestinal cancer and (iv) haematological cancer patients in (A) England, (B) each primary care trust and (C) each cancer network were recorded in the Hospital Episodes Statistics database in each of the last five years. [322245]

Ann Keen: Information on the count of finished admission episodes (FAEs) and emergency admissions where the method of admission was emergency, and where the primary diagnosis was lung cancer, bowel cancer, upper gastrointestinal cancer and haematological cancer, has been placed in the Library.

The information has been provided for England and for primary care trusts in England for the years 2004-05 to 2008-09. Information is not available by cancer networks.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he made of expenditure on *(a)* cancer care, *(b)* lung cancer care, *(c)* bowel cancer care, *(d)* haematological cancer care and *(e)* upper gastrointestinal cancer care in (i) England, (ii) each cancer network area and (iii) each primary care trust in each of the last five years; how much was spent on (A) in-patient costs excluding those relating to surgery, (B) surgery including daycare and in-patient stays, (C) drugs including the cost of medicine preparation and administration, (D) outpatients including diagnostics, first and follow-up appointments, (E) radiotherapy, (F) specialist palliative care excluding that provided by the voluntary sector and (G) other costs in each of those years; and whether the methodology used to make those estimates was the same as that used to produce the chart on page 119 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy, published on 3 December 2007. [322272]

Ann Keen: Tables showing estimated expenditure on cancer care, lung cancer care, lower gastro-intestinal cancer care, haematological cancer care and upper gastrointestinal cancer care in England, by each cancer network area and by each primary care trust (PCT), have been placed in the Library.

Information on cancer care has been provided for England and PCTs for the last five years. Information on cancer care has been provided for cancer networks from 2004-05, as this is the first year that the information became available. Information for cancer care by tumour site has been provided from 2006-07 as this is the first year that data was collected at sub-category level for a number of tumour types. Bowel cancer care is included in the lower gastro-intestinal cancer care data.

The information requested from questions A-G is not routinely available. The estimated total national health service spend on cancer care represented in the graph on page 119 of the "Cancer Reform Strategy" was an analysis commissioned specifically for inclusion in the Strategy. It was based on a wide range of data from 2005-06, and the sources of this data are quoted in the Strategy. An estimated NHS spend on cancer care under the same categories of that graph is not available for any other years, and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS cancer patients have made top-up payments for treatments since the arrangements for such payments were implemented. [322520]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not hold figures for the number of national health service patients who choose to purchase additional private care.

However, this will be looked at as part of a national audit of the demand for unfunded drugs. The audit, which was recommended by Professor Sir Mike Richards's review, 'Improving access to medicines for NHS patients', is currently being developed and is expected to report in the spring of 2011.

Departmental Legal Costs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent in *(a)* legal fees and *(b)* compensation on legal cases concerning remuneration of its employees in each of the last 10 years. [322061]

Phil Hope: Since 2006, there have been no legal challenges reaching an employment tribunal on matters concerning remuneration. Records were not held centrally prior to 2006 and to collect this information would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Legislation

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what statutory instruments he plans to lay before Parliament in the remainder of the current session; and on what dates he plans to lay those instruments. [322267]

Phil Hope: There are no current plans to lay any further statutory instruments under the affirmative procedure in the current session. A number of statutory instruments to be laid under the negative procedure are under consideration at any time.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the benchmark results of the Civil Service People Survey for his Department and its agencies. [322572]

Phil Hope: The 2009 Civil Service People Survey results for the Department have been placed in the Library. The results are also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_112846

The 2009 Civil Service People Survey results for the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have been placed in the Library. These results are also available on the MHRA website at:

www.mhra.gov.uk/NewsCentre/CON071332

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to deter theft from within the Department. [322649]

Phil Hope: The Department deters thefts by:

reporting thefts to the police;

guidance and training to staff on how to protect departmental property;

marking departmental property with forensic dye and high visibility labels; and

recording lost or stolen items on a police property register.

Doctors and Nurses: Manpower

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses were employed in the NHS in Wolverhampton (i) in 1997 and (ii) at the latest date for which figures are available. [322256]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the number of consultants, doctors in training and national health service hospital and community health services (HCHS) qualified nursing staff, at the Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust as at 30 September, for 1997 and the latest date available, is shown in the following table:

	Number of consultants	*Number of doctors in training*	*HCHS qualified nursing staff*
1997	94	131	978
2008	182	219	1,547

Sources:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care—Non-Medical Workforce Census
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care—Medical and Dental Workforce Census

The number of NHS general practitioners (GPs), practice nurses and HCHS qualified nursing staff employed by Wolverhampton City Primary Care Trust (PCT) as at 30 September, for 2002 and the latest date available is shown in the following table:

	Number of GPs	*Number of practice nurses*	*Number of HCHS qualified nursing staff*
2002	142	98	1,461
2008	175	96	1,547

Note:
It is not possible to map accurate workforce figures for this organisation prior to the formation of the PCTs in 2002.
Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care—General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Doctors: Vacancies

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vacancies for junior doctors there have been in each month since May 1997. [322236]

Ann Keen: Junior doctor posts are not included in the NHS Information Centre Medical and Dental vacancy publication.

Ealing

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Ealing Southall constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997. [322444]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government have put in place a programme of national health service investment and reform since 1997 to improve service delivery in all parts of the United Kingdom. 93 per cent. of people nationally now rate the NHS as good or excellent. The NHS Constitution contains 25 rights and 14 pledges for patients and the public including new rights to be treated within 18 weeks, or be seen by a cancer specialist within two weeks and an NHS health check every five years for those aged 40-74 years.

There is significant evidence that these policies have yielded considerable benefits for the Ealing Southall constituency.

For example:

Figures for December 2009 show that in Ealing Primary Care Trust (PCT):

96 per cent. of patients whose treatment involved admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

98 per cent. of patients whose treatment did not involve admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

Between September 2001 and September 2008 the number of general practitioners (GPs) per 100,000 people within Ealing PCT has increased from 61.2 to 66.8.

In December 2009, at Ealing Hospital NHS Trust, 97.7 per cent. of patients spent less than four hours in accident and emergency from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge.

Between September 1997 and September 2008 the number of consultants at Ealing Hospital NHS Trust increased from 49 to 67. Between September 1997 and September 2008 the estimated number of nurses increased from 550 to 726.

96.9 per cent. of urgent GP referrals to Ealing Hospital NHS Trust with suspected cancer are seen by a specialist within two weeks of the referral.

Although statistical information is not available at a local level, Ealing Southall will have also benefited from national policies in other areas. For example:

Since 1997, gross current expenditure on personal social services has increased by around 70 per cent. in real terms with around 105,000 households now receiving intensive home care and 3,076 new extra care housing units—exceeding the original target of 1,500 new extra care units.

Other strategies currently being implemented are:

Subject to parliamentary approval, the Personal Care at Home Bill will guarantee free personal care for 280,000 people with the highest needs and help around 130,000 people who need home care for the first time to regain their independence;

Shaping the Future of Care Together Green Paper, published in July 2009, sets out a vision for a National Care Service for all adults in England which is fair, simple and affordable. The Department has consulted widely on this reform and is currently analysing the responses, which will feed into a White Paper later this year;

The National Carer's Strategy—(Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities)—launched in 2008;

The first National Dementia Strategy was published in February 2009;

Valuing People Now—a three year strategy for people with learning disabilities published in January 2009; and

New Horizons: A Shared Vision for Mental Health—launched in December 2009—to maintain improvements in mental health services combined with a new cross-Government approach to promoting public mental health.

Since 1998, there are now 2.4 million fewer smokers in England as a result of the Government's comprehensive tobacco control strategy which has had a measurable impact on reducing smoking prevalence.

Child obesity levels are reducing due to the efforts of families across England, supported by the Government's obesity strategy. In 2008, 13.9 per cent. of children (aged 2 to 10) in England were classified as obese, compared with 17.3 per cent. in 2005.

Overall, life expectancy at birth for men has increased from 74.5 years (1995-1997 data) to 77.7 years (2006-08 data) while for women, life expectancy at birth has increased from 79.6 years (1995-97 data) to 81.9 years (2006-08 data).

General Practitioners and Dental Services: Pendle

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* GPs and *(b)* dentists were practising in Pendle in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009. [322224]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the data are available set out in the following table.

All general practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) by primary care trust (PCT) area in England, as at 30 September 2002-08

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale PCT	129	133	134	132	—	—	—
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	—	—	—	—	221	218	221

Notes:

1. East Lancashire PCT was created on 1 October 2006 from a complete merger of Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale PCT, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley PCT and a part merger of Preston PCT (various wards and parishes). Due to this part merger it is not possible to provide figures which are consistent over a time series prior to 2006. The area of Pendle was serviced by Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale PCT in 2002-05 and by East Lancashire PCT in 2006-08.

2. The Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care—general and personal medical services statistics.

The numbers of national health service dentists, in Pendle, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 are available in Annex E and Annex G of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006". Annex E provides information by strategic health authority (SHA) and by PCT. Annex G provides information by constituency.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is available on the website of the Information Centre for health and social care at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

The numbers of dentists with NHS activity during the years ending 31 March, 2007, 2008 and 2009 are available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2008-09" report. Information is provided for England and by SHA and PCT but is not available by constituency. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report, published on 19 August 2009, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the website of the Information Centre for health and social care at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes any previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

These published figures relate to a headcount and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Health Services: Disadvantaged

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much NHS spending has been spent in *(a)* Spearhead and *(b)* non-Spearhead primary care trusts in each year since the start of the Spearhead Programme. [322325]

Gillian Merron: There are currently 62 PCTs that cover Spearhead areas and 90 that do not. It is worth noting that the Spearhead does not refer to PCTs, but to local authority areas, which do not correspond exactly to each other

The information is in the following table.

Total expenditure in Spearhead and non-Spearhead primary care trusts (PCTs) 2005-06 to 2008-09

£000

	Spearhead PCTs	Non-Spearhead PCTs	Total
2008-09	30,114,227	46,646,607	76,760,834
2007-08	28,486,147	43,892,433	72,378,580
2006-07	26,018,647	40,369,031	66,387,678
2005-06	21,770,843	41,492,084	63,262,927

Notes:
1. Figures represent total net operating costs.
2. Figures for 2006-07 to 2008-09 are based on PCT boundaries following the October 2006 NHS reorganisation. 2005-06 figures are based on old PCT boundaries.
3. The Spearhead group is identified in terms of local authority areas—Spearhead PCTs are those that overlap geographically, either wholly or partly, with the Spearhead local authorities. Spearhead PCTs on old and new boundaries cover slightly different populations.

Source:
PCT audited summarisation schedules

Home Care Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who *(a)* was invited to and *(b)* attended his Department's care and support conference in February 2010. [322237]

Phil Hope: Members of the Care and Support Alliance and a limited number of additional organisations which have a cross-cutting leadership role in the care and support sector, were invited to the Care and Support Conference on 19 February to give their views to politicians and help build a consensus on the reform of the system.

A full list of attendees is included in the Conference Report, a copy of which has been placed in the Library and which can also be viewed online at:

http://careandsupport.direct.gov.uk/news/2010/03/care-and-support-conference-report-published/

Motor Neurone Disease: Health Services

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to publish a national strategy on motor neurone disease; and if he will make a statement. [322342]

Ann Keen: There are no current plans to publish a national strategy on motor neurone disease.

NHS: Medical Treatments

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether Evidence Review Groups are required to complete their assessments within the timetables set by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for *(a)* multiple and *(b)* single technology appraisals. [322514]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Under the contract between the Department and the Technology Assessment Review (TAR) teams which support the work of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), Evidence Review Group reports for single technology appraisals are produced within eight weeks from the date of the industry submission and assessment reports for multiple technology appraisals are produced within 28 weeks from the TAR team's receipt of the final scope from NICE. This assumes that preceding stages have been completed according to the stipulated guidance.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to publish its response to the consultation on its response to Sir Ian Kennedy's report on Appraising the Value of Innovation. [322594]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Publication of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) final response to Sir Ian Kennedy's report on Appraising the Value of Innovation is a matter for NICE as an independent body. We understand that a draft response to Sir Ian's report was discussed at NICE'S board meeting on 17 March 2010 and NICE will confirm its plans for publication in due course.

Trade Unions

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many days staff of his Department and its agencies spent on trade union activity in the latest year for which figures are available; and what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of such activity. [320614]

Phil Hope: Information about the number of days that staff in the Department and its agencies spent on trade union activity is not held centrally. To collect this information would incur disproportionate cost. It is not possible therefore to make an estimate of the cost of these activities.

Through our facilities agreement, the Department makes available certain facilities to the three recognised trades unions in order to conduct their business effectively.

The Department and trades unions place high value on fostering and maintaining good industrial relations. We work in partnership to achieve shared aims, objectives and outcomes. The granting of reasonable facilities and facility time by the Department make an important contribution to the success of the organisation.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Departmental Consultants

Angus Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible, in each year since 2005. [319767]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Na h-Eileanan An Iar (Mr. MacNeil) on 16 March 2010, *Official Report*, column reference 838W.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [322069]

Mr. McFadden: During the period 1 February 2009 to 31 January 2010, 116 items were reported as missing on this Department's and its predecessors' central London estate with an estimated replacement value of £32,044. Of these, 22 items were subsequently found with an estimated replacement value of £3,257.

The Department records items as missing as it is not always possible to prove theft as the reason for the loss of items and some items reported are subsequently found.

The figure includes small, low value personal items as well as items of electrical equipment, such as ICT equipment, mobile phones and accessories (some of which may have been personal items) and multi media equipment.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps the Department is taking to deter theft from within the Department. [322645]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills takes thefts seriously, and has long standing policies in place designed to reduce the number of thefts.

To raise awareness of the need for ongoing vigilance we undertake the following:

Poster campaigns in areas such as in the tea points and lift lobbies reminding staff of the threat of opportunist thefts.

Advice on the Department's intranet site alerting staff that they could be a victim, and advising them what to do in the unlikely event they become a victim.

Frequent foot patrols by our security guards, both in and out of office hours.

There have also been notices to staff published on the Department's electronic bulletin board reminding staff of the need to protect departmental assets when travelling on public transport and when in public places.

We record thefts in the Department and monitor the trends. If trends deteriorate in a given area, we would put in place further measures to tackle the problem. These could include seminars to staff in affected areas, one to one advice and specific intervention by line managers.

We review our policies frequently making improvements to security when necessary.

Diamond Jubilee 2012

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials from his Department are working on plans for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. [322510]

Mr. McFadden: A Diamond Jubilee Unit has been established in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. This is staffed by 1.5 (full-time equivalent) staff. The Unit is working closely with officials from 15 Government Departments (including the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills) and the Devolved Administrations.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether there are plans to strike medals to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. [322522]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the statement given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business and Regulatory Reform (Ian Lucas) to the House on this matter on 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 56-57. A medal will be issued to mark the Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Further details will be released in due course.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many letters he has received on the subject of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in the last 12 months. [322619]

Mr. McFadden: My Noble Friend the Secretary of State has received approximately 52 letters on the subject of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to link events to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with London 2012 Olympics. [322620]

Mr. McFadden: Planning for the Diamond Jubilee is still at an early stage. Consideration will be given nearer the time as to whether there are opportunities to link the Jubilee celebrations with other events going on around the country in the run up to the games.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with Buckingham Palace on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. [322621]

Mr. McFadden: Although planning for the Diamond Jubilee is still at an early stage, discussions are ongoing between Government and the Royal Household about the arrangements for the Diamond Jubilee.

Insolvency: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses employing *(a)* fewer than 10, *(b)* between 10 and 50, *(c)* between 51 and 100, *(d)* between 101 and 200, *(e)* between 201 and 300 and *(f)* over 300 employees have been declared insolvent in (i) Stroud constituency and (ii) Gloucestershire in each year since 1990. [322789]

Ian Lucas: Official statistics covering corporate insolvencies are not currently available at a sub-national level within England and Wales.

Additionally, the number of employees is not recorded on the source datasets.

Self-employed traders may be declared bankrupt (or enter into an individual voluntary arrangement (IVA)). While official regional figures down to constituency level for self-employed bankrupts are maintained from calendar year 2000, the number of employees (if any) is not available.

Learning Disability

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that adult learners with learning *(a)* difficulties and *(b)* disabilities are given support to participate in education; and if he will make a statement. [322738]

Kevin Brennan: This Department routes funding through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for the provision of further education (FE) and skills training for adult learners aged 19 and over. This includes funding for learners with difficulties and/or disabilities (LLDD).

Funding for these learners remains a priority and we remain committed to maintaining future opportunities for them.

Additional learning support (ALS) funding is provided to FE colleges and training organisations to support the additional costs associated with learners with LDD to help them to undertake mainstream provision.

There is a broad range of provision available to support learners with LDD, for example the Foundation Learning Curriculum supports improved achievement and progression towards employment and independent living below level 2. However it is for FE colleges and training organisations to determine their offer to these learners in line with their level of need.

Currently, learners aged 19 to 25 entitled to a learning difficulty assessment (LDD) (S139A) are covered by a statutory duty placed on the Learning Skills Council. From 1 April 2010 responsibility will transfer to local authorities (LAs) following changes announced in the Learning Skills Act 2008 and the Apprenticeship, Schools, Children and Learning Act 2009. Such learners will continue to be funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) through the arrangements with the Young Persons Learning Agency and LAs. This will support the policy that there should be a single body with responsibility for all young adults with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LLDD) up to the age of 25 who require significant levels of support.

It is not possible to separately identify learners in receipt of S139A assessments. However we are able to estimate that there have been around 200,000 learners aged 19 and over in mainstream provision with a self declared disability each year from 2006/07 to 2008/09 academic year (the latest whole year for which data are available).

Redundancy: Public Sector

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* voluntary and *(b)* involuntary redundancy rates were in the public sector in (i) Leeds North-West constituency and (ii) each industrial category in each year since 1997. [322702]

Mr. McFadden: Estimates of the total number of redundancies are available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). However there is no available disaggregation between voluntary and involuntary redundancies or a constituency-level or regional breakdown.

Individuals recently made redundant are not asked in the LFS whether they were in the public or private sectors and are instead classified according to the industrial group of their previous job. The industrial group 'public administration, education and health' may act as a very broad approximation of a large part of the public sector. Although a large fraction of employees in and redundancies from this industrial group are likely to be in the public sector, private sector firms also operate within this industry whilst there are also public sector employees in other sectors.

BIS estimates of redundancies from public administration, education and health and all other industries are provided in the third and fourth columns of Table 1 for the first quarter of each year since 1999, the earliest date available. These figures should only be treated as indicative as the LFS is a self classification survey completed by individuals. Some individuals are unlikely to identify exactly the industry in which they work.

The second column of Table 1 reports Office for National Statistics published figures for total economy-wide redundancy rates. These do not exactly match the other columns due to missing values in the industrial classification of redundancies.

Table 1: First quarter redundancy rates 1997 to 2009. Not seasonally adjusted

		Industrial breakdown	
	ONS total first quarter redundancy rates	*Public administration, education and health*	*All other industries*
1997	7.0	—	—
1998	7.4	—	—
1999	8.8	1.59	11.40
2000	7.8	0.97	10.32
2001	6.5	1.99	8.48
2002	8.4	1.24	11.11
2003	7.3	1.35	9.65
2004	5.9	0.89	7.97
2005	5.6	0.96	7.61
2006	5.9	1.20	8.06
2007	6.1	1.44	8.15
2008	4.7	1.37	6.21
2009	11.8	1.36	16.50

Source:

ONS Economic and Labour Market Statistics (column 2) and BIS analysis of Labour Force Survey (columns 3 and 4). The data are not seasonally adjusted although there are seasonal variations in the number of redundancies.

Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Stroud constituency, the effects on that constituency of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessors since 2000. [321473]

Mr. McFadden: I refer my hon. Friend to the answers given by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Regional Development and Co-ordination on 27 January, *Official Report*, column 974W, and 10 February, *Official Report*, column 111W, regarding specific examples of support to Stroud district.

The Government have put in place a broad programme of reform since 1997. Over the decade to 2007, the economic performance of all parts of the UK improved considerably. More recently we have provided significant support to businesses through 'Real Help for Business', and the strategy 'New Industry, New Jobs'.

There are a number of websites that provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level. Examples are the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/

and NOMIS at:

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/

Students: Radicalism

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what written guidance his Department has issued to educational establishments on reducing levels of *(a)* religious and *(b)* political extremism in those establishments. [321684]

Mr. Lammy: Guidance was issued to vice-chancellors and college principals from the former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills on managing the risk of violent extremism.

These two guidance documents can be found at:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/higher_education/shape_and_structure/~/media/publications/L/extremismhe

and

http://www.dius.gov.uk/further_education/guidance_and_good_practice/~/media/publications/L/learning-together-to-be-safe-online-

My noble Friend the Secretary of State wrote to all vice-chancellors in England in February 2010 following the failed Detroit bombing on Christmas day. A copy of this letter will be sent to the hon. Member.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the compatibility of measures planned by his Department to reduce extremism in educational establishments with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998. [321685]

Mr. Lammy: Work to reduce extremism in educational establishments forms part of the Government's overall counter-terrorism strategy. The revised strategy which was published by the Home Office in 2009 contains a statement on Human Rights. Separate assessments are not undertaken by other Departments.

The statement can be found in sections 7.04 to 7.06 of the counter terrorism strategy document which can be found at:

http://security.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-publications/publication-search/contest/contest-strategy

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biomass

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent progress he has made on the development of sustainability indicators for biomass. [322266]

Mr. Kidney: The renewable energy directive, published in June 2009, includes sustainability criteria that transport biofuels, and bioliquids used for heat and electricity generation must meet in order to receive financial support and to count towards the directive's renewable energy targets. On 25 February 2010, the European Commission published its recommendations on the sustainability requirements member states should include if they decide to introduce sustainability criteria for the use of solid and gaseous biomass sources for heat and electricity generation. In the light of this, DECC will make an announcement later this month, setting out what actions the Government can now take to introduce sustainability standards for biomass in the UK.

Carbon Emissions

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what volume of carbon dioxide emissions have been recorded in the UK on the Kyoto protocol basis *(a)* including and *(b)* excluding emissions trading in each of the last five years. [320330]

Joan Ruddock: DECC published estimates of UK greenhouse gas emissions for the period 1990 to 2008 as National Statistics on 2 February 2010. These can be found on the DECC website at the link as follows. This publication includes data tables which show emissions both including and excluding emissions trading.

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate_change/gg_emissions/uk_emissions/2008_final/2008_final.aspx

The following table shows both UK carbon dioxide emissions and UK greenhouse gas emissions on a Kyoto Protocol basis for each of the last five years for which data are currently available.

		2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Greenhouse gas emissions	Excluding emissions trading	659.3	655.2	650.0	640.5	628.3
	Including emissions trading	659.3	630.1	618.7	614.9	608.4
Carbon dioxide emissions	Excluding emissions trading	556.3	553.9	551.4	543.6	532.8
	Including emissions trading	556.3	528.8	520.2	518.1	512.9

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the amount of carbon dioxide emissions arising from UK households in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of such emissions arising from electricity use. [320332]

Joan Ruddock: The most recent estimates of UK carbon dioxide emissions were for the 2008 calendar year. These were published by DECC as National Statistics on 2nd February 2010. This publication includes a breakdown by sector, based on the source of emissions. Based on this breakdown, we estimate that 80.7 Mt carbon dioxide came from the residential sector. This primarily represents emissions relating to fossil fuel combustion within residential homes, which will primarily be in relation to domestic heating and cooking.

DECC also publishes estimates of carbon dioxide emissions on an end-user basis which can be found at:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate_change_gg_emissions/uk_emissions/2008_final/2008_final.aspx

on this page a summary report of UK emissions by National Communication sector (which includes the residential sector) on an end-user basis and the accompanying excel tables can be found.

The end-user breakdown reallocates the emissions by source in accordance with where the end-use occurred. The main effect of this is to re-allocate emissions from the power supply sector to businesses and homes, where electricity is used.

The most recent estimates available of UK carbon dioxide emissions on an end-user basis are for the 2007 calendar year; this is the most recent year for which we have estimates of emissions by both source and end-user. These were published by DECC as national statistics on 26 March 2009. This publication included a breakdown by end-user sector, which estimated that 142.2 Mt carbon-dioxide came from the residential sector.

On an end-user basis, we would therefore estimate that approximately 45 per cent. of residential carbon dioxide emissions arise from electricity use.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what expenditure his Department has incurred on its Act on CO_2 campaign in each month since the campaign began. [320334]

Joan Ruddock: We do not hold financial records for spend for all media on a month-by-month basis.

The cost information we have is outlined as follows.

DECC was; created in October 2008, however the Save Money, Save Energy campaign was launched in September 2008, therefore figures reported are from the start of that campaign.

From September 2008 to March 2009, invoiced expenditure on DECC's Act On CO_2 advertising campaign was £10.19 million inclusive of fees, exclusive of VAT and covers all costs associated with the campaign.

From April 2009 to 16 March 2010, the estimated expenditure was £9.98 million inclusive of fees, exclusive of VAT and covers all costs associated with the campaign.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what figures are represented in *(a)* Chart 19, *(b)* Chart 20 and *(c)* Chart 22 of the Analytical Annex to the Low Carbon Transition Plan. [320358]

Joan Ruddock: The underlying data for charts 19, 20 and 22 from the Analytical Annex to the Low Carbon Transition Plan are in the tables. The Annex can be viewed online at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/publications/lc_trans_plan/lc_trans_plan.aspx

Chart 19 shows that the projected increases in household energy bills in 2020 (compared to bills in 2020 where there are no climate change policies) are likely to represent a smaller proportion of income for those in higher income households than for lower income households.

Chart 20 shows that households who take up insulation and renewable energy measures are likely to face much lower increases in their bills in 2020 compared to those who do not. It also shows that for those who do take up measures, the expected increase in energy bills as a share of income is more similar across the income distribution.

Chart 22 shows actual and projected UK fossil fuel demand and production, indicating the level of the UK's energy import dependency. The Department updates its projections of both UK demand and production from time to time so these estimates of future import dependency are subject to revision.

Chart 19: Increase in energy bills in 2020 for different income deciles

Decile	*Percentage share of income spent on energy bills without policies*	*Increase in share of income spent on energy bills with policies (ppts) (percentage)*
Bottom	12.73	1.50
2nd	8.53	0.96
3rd	6.63	0.80
4th	5.42	0.69
5th	4.55	0.55
6th	3.96	0.50
7th	3.42	0.41
8th	2.95	0.38
9th	2.53	0.34
Top	1.87	0.25

Source:
DECC

Chart 20: Increase in energy bill as a percentage of income for households that take up insulation and renewable energy measures

Income Decile	*Household receives measures*	*Household receives no measures*	*Percentage Average of all households (ppts)*
Bottom	0.67	2.78	1.50
2nd	0.46	1.89	0.96
3rd	0.44	1.52	0.80
4th	0.39	1.28	0.69
5th	0.30	1.09	0.55
6th	0.29	0.96	0.50
7th	0.24	0.82	0.41
8th	0.24	0.73	0.38
9th	0.22	0.62	0.34
Top	0.18	0.44	0.25

Source:
DECC

Chart 22: Actual and projected UK fossil fuel demand and production

	UK Production			*UK Demand (pre-TP baseline)*			*UK Demand (post-TP)*		
mtoe	*Coal*	*Oil (incl bunkers)*	*Gas (net)*	*Coal*	*Oil (incl bunkers)*	*Gas (net)*	*Coal*	*Oil (incl bunkers)*	*Gas (net)*
1998	25.8	145.3	84.5	40.6	91.0	82.3	40.6	91.0	82.3
1999	23.2	150.2	93.5	36.1	89.6	88.0	36.1	89.6	88.0
2000	19.6	138.3	102.7	38.7	89.2	91.2	38.7	89.2	91.2
2001	20.0	127.8	99.1	41.0	87.6	89.6	41.0	87.6	89.6
2002	18.8	127.0	96.8	37.6	86.6	88.3	37.6	86.6	88.3
2003	17.6	116.2	96.3	40.1	86.8	88.8	40.1	86.8	88.8
2004	15.6	104.5	89.7	38.5	89.1	90.8	38.5	89.1	90.8
2005	12.7	92.9	81.8	39.4	91.3	88.4	39.4	91.3	88.4
2006	11.4	84.0	74.0	43.0	90.6	84.2	43.0	90.6	84.2
2007	10.7	84.2	66.5	40.3	86.9	85.4	40.3	86.9	85.4
2008	11.6	78.2	64.3	38.2	85.8	86.3	38.1	85.8	86.3
2009	11.0	74.1	59.1	36.3	84.3	84.4	35.7	82.6	83.9
2010	11.0	70.8	55.5	34.4	84.2	82.1	33.1	83.1	80.7
2011	11.0	67.8	52.3	38.0	85.0	80.9	33.0	83.6	80.5
2012	11.0	65.3	49.4	36.9	85.8	82.2	31.7	84.0	80.3
2013	11.0	62.7	47.2	35.3	86.1	84.0	31.8	84.0	78.8
2014	11.0	59.9	45.0	34.0	86.5	85.0	28.8	83.6	78.8
2015	11.0	57.2	43.0	35.3	86.9	84.2	30.6	83.2	74.9
2016	11.0	54.6	41.1	31.5	87.4	86.8	29.0	82.8	72.8
2017	11.0	52.2	39.2	31.0	88.0	88.5	26.9	82.4	73.0
2018	11.0	49.8	37.5	30.5	88.5	88.5	28.5	82.0	68.1
2019	11.0	47.6	35.8	30.7	89.1	88.8	26.1	81.5	67.0
2020	11.0	45.4	34.2	31.5	89.7	87.8	24.7	81.1	62.6
2021	11.0	43.4	32.6	30.5	90.4	88.5	23.9	81.6	61.6
2022	11.0	41.4	31.2	30.5	91.2	89.5	23.3	82.1	61.8
2023	11.0	39.6	29.7	29.4	91.9	91.4	18.5	82.6	66.2
2024	11.0	37.8	28.4	27.2	92.7	96.1	18.0	83.1	68.9
2025	11.0	36.1	27.1	27.2	93.5	97.2	18.0	83.7	68.9

Source:
DECC

Carbon Emissions: Housing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to take steps to ensure that consumers are aware of those services and products which are subsidised under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target scheme; and if he will make a statement. [322483]

Joan Ruddock: The Government are taking a number of steps to ensure consumers are assisted in understanding the support available to them. The Government supports a one-stop shop through the Energy Saving Trust which provides free advice to consumers on energy saving as well as providing easy access to the full range of Carbon Emission Reduction Target offers. This is supported by the Government's overarching Act On CO_2 marketing campaign which demonstrates the benefits of the energy saving measures offered under the Carbon Emission Reduction Target as part of coverage in national television, press, radio and online. Longer term, we have set out our intention as part of the 'Warm Homes, Greener Homes' strategy to continue to improve and simplify consumer access to, and use of, energy saving information. This will combine with effective branding and marketing to build awareness and trust in the available products and services.

Climate Change: Publicity

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department had spent on its advertising campaign Act on CO_2 at the latest date for which information is available. [319440]

Joan Ruddock: DECC was created in October 2008, however the Save Money, Save Energy campaign was launched in September 2008, therefore figures reported are from the start of that campaign.

From September 2008 to March 2009, invoiced cost on DECC's Act on CO_2 advertising campaign was £10.19 million inclusive of fees, exclusive of VAT and covers all costs associated with the campaign.

From April 2009 to 16 March 2010, the estimated cost was £9.98 million inclusive of fees, exclusive of VAT and covers all costs associated with the campaign.

Climate Change: Research

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding has been allocated to research into mitigation of the effects of climate change on *(a)* agriculture and *(b)* other industries in the last five years. [322309]

Dan Norris: I have been asked to reply.

(a) The funding allocated into research into the effects of climate change on agriculture in the past five years is as follows:

		£
	Mitigation	*Adaptation*
2003-04	324,193	280,559
2004-05	324,193	280,559
2005-06	239,748	143,199
2006-07	987,775	292,554
2007-08	1,583,875	575,388
2008-09	1,717,622	269.354

(b) The UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP), funded by DEFRA, has incorporated a business element that works with individual business or representative organisations to help develop risk management and adaptation strategies. UKCIP have developed free for user on-line tools specially designed for business, in addition to the climate change projections.

We are unable to provide a breakdown of the funding provided to UKCIP for research into mitigating the effects of climate change in agriculture and business, as the work done by UKCIP is of benefit to all. However the total funding provided to UKCIP for the last five years is as follows:

	£
2005-06	712,743
2006-07	799,000
2007-08	898,337
2008-09	1,322,900
2009-10	1,078,000
Total funding	4,810,980

In addition, as part of Government's cross-Department Adaptation to Climate Change programme established in 2008, a small business engagement team has been set up. In FY 2009-10 this team managed research projects on business opportunities from adaptation to climate change, business messaging and business advice totalling up to £160,000.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [322074]

Joan Ruddock: The following items have been recorded as lost or stolen from the Department in the last 12 months:

	Item	*Lost*	*Stolen*
Laptops	1	1	
RSA token	9	0	
Entrust token	3	0	
Blackberry	1	0	
3G dongle	1	0	
Coat	0	1	
Bag	0	1	

Estimated cost for replacement is £4,000.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been paid in reimbursable expenses to special advisers in his Department in each year since its creation. [320582]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has not paid any reimbursable expenses to special advisers.

Domestic Appliances: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what estimate he has made of the number of domestic consumer electronics products which qualify for the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target; what estimate he has made of the reduction in the volume of carbon dioxide emissions as a result of the number of domestic consumer electronics products in the scheme; and if he will make a statement; [322866]

(2) if he will bring forward proposals to require all Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) measures to be branded to inform consumers of their indirect contribution through bill payments to the cost of CERT measures; and if he will make a statement. [322867]

Joan Ruddock: Government do not require suppliers to report or present this information on bills at present, but the Government's 'Warm Homes, Greener Homes' strategy, published in early March, set out the importance of greater transparency in any post 2013 energy company obligation, including around cost information. We continue to develop the detail of this arrangement, and will pursue new powers as necessary.

Energy: Billing

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to prevent energy companies changing billing review and assessment periods for small business customers other than on an annual basis; and if he will enforce automatic return to such customers of credit balances above a specified level. [322306]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 15 March 2010]:* Details of billing review and assessment periods, and the customer's right to a credit refund for balances above a certain level are subject to the terms and conditions of individual business supply contracts. Where smaller business customers are concerned about such an issue they should in the first instance take it up with their supplier. If the supplier fails to resolve the matter satisfactorily, they should pursue their complaint through the Energy Ombudsman under the statutory redress scheme.

Ofgem looked at concerns about unfairness in contract terms in small business supply as part of its probe into the energy supply market in 2008. As a result, Ofgem recently placed an obligation on suppliers to provide clear and transparent contract terms and conditions. The changes came into effect from 18 January 2010. I would expect to see Ofgem evaluate the impact of the changes in due course and consider whether any further changes are needed to protect small business consumers.

National Grid

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the effect on the National Grid of an electromagnetic pulse strike caused *(a)* deliberately and *(b)* through solar activity. [322100]

Mr. Kidney: We are not aware recent work has been done on the risk of a deliberately generated electromagnetic pulse adversely impacting the National Grid.

In 2009 National Grid used modelling techniques to study the impact of solar storms on the UK transmission system. The modelling has identified the reasonable worst scenario for the transmission network could lead to short term, localised disturbances at the extremities of the network. National Grid does not anticipate any significant disruption to supplies to electricity customers.

Oils: Waste Disposal

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on encouraging the generation of energy from waste oils; and if he will make a statement. [319195]

Dan Norris: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA's policy on waste oils is set out in the revised Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC). In accordance with the directive, the recovery of energy from waste oil is fourth in the priority order known as the waste hierarchy. The regeneration of waste oil into base oil by re-refining is classed as recycling and is third in the hierarchy. Waste disposal, which includes incineration without energy recovery, is at the bottom as the least preferred option.

We are currently considering the responses to the stage one consultation on the transposition of the revised Waste Framework Directive, including the provisions in article 4 on the waste hierarchy and article 21 on waste oils. The stage two consultation will comprise a draft of the transposing regulations and an impact assessment.

Radioactive Waste: Transport

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether trains carrying nuclear waste use the *(a)* Lea Valley and *(b)* Barking to Gospel Oak line. [322511]

Chris Mole: I have been asked to reply.

Irradiated nuclear fuel (often referred to as nuclear waste) is transported by rail from nuclear power stations to Sellafield in Cumbria. Because of the nature of the UK rail network these shipments regularly use railway routes in and around London. However, the Department for Transport does not hold data on the precise routes taken.

The transport of radioactive material, including irradiated nuclear fuel, is governed by stringent internationally-agreed standards recommended by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), an agency appointed by the United Nations to oversee all aspects of the peaceful uses of atomic energy worldwide. The safety of the transport of radioactive material is secured by the design and build quality of the packages used. In particular, packages used to transport irradiated nuclear fuel are designed to withstand a severe impact and fire without releasing their radioactive contents.

Organisations consigning radioactive materials are free to choose the most appropriate route and mode of transport for their purposes and rail transport represents the best option for very heavy items such as irradiated nuclear fuel flasks.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 880-1W, which countries were categorised as *(a)* other Europe, *(b)* other former USSR, *(c)* other Americas, *(d)* other Africa, *(e)* other Middle East and *(f)* other Asia and Oceania in the data provided. [321318]

Mr. Woolas: The countries of nationality that are categorised within other Europe, other former USSR, other Americas, other Africa, other Middle East and other Asia and Oceania are listed as follows. The list includes nationalities for which there were no grants or refusals of asylum in the years 2007, 2008 and 2009.

(a) Other Europe

Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus (Northern part of), Denmark, Faroe Islands, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Greenland, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Spain, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands, Sweden, Switzerland, Vatican City State (Holy See), Yugoslavia.

(b) Other former USSR

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

(c) Other Americas

Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda (GBR), Bolivia, Bouvet Island, Brazil, Canada, Cayman Islands, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, French Guyana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guam, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Martinique, Mexico, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Pierre and Miquelon, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands (GBR), United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Virgin Islands (US).

(d) Other Africa

Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Burkina Faso, Reunion, Sao Tome Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, St. Helena (GBR), Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Western Sahara, Zambia.

(e) Other Middle East

Bahrain, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

(f) Other Asia and Oceania

American Samoa, Antarctica, Australia, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia (Kampuchea),Christmas Islands, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Cook Island, Korea (North), East Timor, Fiji, Heard & McDonald Islands, Hong Kong SAR of China (Holder of Certificate of Identity or Document of Identity), Hong Kong SAR of China (Holder of Special Administrative Region Passport), Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mayotte, Micronesia, Mongolia, Burma (Myanmar), Nauru, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Norfolk Island, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Korea (South), Thailand, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis Futuna Islands.

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 329-30W, on asylum, what arrangements are available to asylum claimants, notwithstanding the rules of October 2009, to allow hon. Members to present further evidence supporting the claimant's case where the claimant cannot attend in person for medical reasons. [321447]

Alan Johnson: Anyone who had made their asylum claim before 5 March 2007 and is being dealt with by the Case Resolution Directorate, who feels that they are physically unable to travel to Liverpool to make their further submissions in person, due to a disability or severe illness, may submit their further submissions either directly, or from their MP or representative via fax to the Further Submissions Team in Liverpool. This must be accompanied by documentary evidence to show how they meet the exceptional criteria. Those who fail to meet the exceptional criteria will be advised to book an appointment to submit their further submissions in person. Those who made their claims after 5 March 2007, whose case is being dealt with by one of the regional asylum teams, should contact either their case-owner or the relevant regional contact number.

Asylum: Repatriation

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* adult and *(b)* child asylum seekers have been removed from the UK by the Third Country Unit under the provisions of the Dublin Regulation EC No. 343/2003 to date. [320864]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 5 March 2010]*: The Dublin Regulation came into force in September 2003.

The following figures show numbers removed since the beginning of 2004. They are based on local management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply to National Statistics publications.

	Adults	*Dependent children*	*Unaccompanied children*[1]	*Total removals*
2004	823	5	79	907
2005	1,444	52	103	1,599
2006	1,415	41	51	1,507
2007	1,066	8	40	1,114
2008	1,191	3	25	1,219
2009	956	2	36	994

[1] This figure relates to the child's age at the point of removal. Some cases begin the Dublin Regulation process as a child but due to the length of time it takes to progress their cases at the point of removal they have become an adult.

Crime: North Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of *(a)* crime related to vehicles, *(b)* burglary of a dwelling, *(c)* other burglary, *(d)* criminal damage, *(e)* theft, *(f)* violence and *(g)* other crimes were reported to North Yorkshire Police in each year since 1997; and how many such offences were committed in the City of York in each such year. [322112]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information is given in the tables.

Police recorded crime statistics are affected by changes in reporting and recording practice and can be influenced by police priorities and activity. All of these factors need to be considered when looking at the trends in recorded crime.

The tables note the changes in recording practice introduced in 1998 and 2002. The Audit Commission undertook substantial audit work on crime recording in the years following the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002 (up until 2006-07) This indicated a generally increasing level of NCRS compliance across forces in this period.

Table 1: Offences recorded by the police in North Yorkshire and in the York Community Safety Partnership area—1997

	Number of offences	
Offence	*North Yorkshire*	*York CSP*
Offences against vehicles	11,721	n/a
Burglary in a dwelling	4,876	n/a
Other burglary	6,484	n/a
Criminal damage	8,537	n/a
Other theft	14,301	n/a
Violence against the person	2,425	n/a
Other offences	469	n/a

n/a = not available

Table 2: Offences recorded by the police in North Yorkshire and in the York Community Safety Partnership area—1998-99 to 2001-02[1, 2]

								Number of offences
Offence	*1998-99*		*1999-2000*		*2000-01*		*2001-02*	
	North Yorkshire	*York CSP*	*North Yorkshire*	*York CSP*	*North Yorkshire*	*York CSP*	*North Yorkshire*	*York CSP*
Offences against vehicles	10,986	n/a	9,807	n/a	8,725	3,685	9,216	4,139
Burglary in a dwelling	4,822	n/a	4,343	2,201	3,888	1,791	4,754	2,299
Other burglary	6,415	n/a	6,059	n/a	5,940	2,175	6,902	2,512
Criminal damage	8,372	n/a	8,617	n/a	9,166	2,717	11,436	3,694
Other theft	14,622	n/a	14,519	n/a	4,066	5,813	15,960	6,761
Violence against the person	4,827	n/a	5,101	1,650	4,895	1,504	5,624	1,656
Other offences	675	n/a	643	n/a	554	144	558	152

n/a = not available

[1] The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.

[2] The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Offences recorded by the police in North Yorkshire and in the York Community Safety Partnership area—2002-03 to 2008-09

								Number of offences
Offence	*2002-03*		*2003-04*		*2004-05*		*2005-06*	
	North Yorkshire	*York CSP*	*North Yorkshire*	*York CSP*	*North Yorkshire*	*York CSP*	*North Yorkshire*	*York CSP*
Offences against vehicles	10,697	4,761	10,614	4,868	7,463	3,224	7,938	3,841
Burglary in a dwelling	4,766	2,162	4,936	2,346	2,921	1,117	2,619	1,081
Other burglary	6,745	2,275	6,126	2,183	4,838	1,596	4,705	1,702
Criminal damage	13,168	4,558	14,732	5,394	13,573	4,602	12,723	4,358
Other theft	17,663	7,269	18,792	8,527	14,721	6,176	14,068	6,028
Violence against the person	8,108	2,575	9,610	3,459	12,045	4,000	11,473	3,810
Other offences	663	223	718	246	689	214	670	217

						Number of offences
Offence	*2006-07*		*2007-08*		*2008-09*	
	North Yorkshire	*York CSP*	*North Yorkshire*	*York CSP*	*North Yorkshire*	*York CSP*
Offences against vehicles	7,057	3,556	5,578	2,498	5,581	2,392
Burglary in a dwelling	2,465	1,065	2,372	975	2,474	1,113
Other burglary	4,371	1,577	3,892	1,343	4,122	1,272
Criminal damage	12,509	4,157	11,023	3,655	10,764	3,640
Other theft	13,242	5,552	12,647	5,384	12,867	5,244
Violence against the person	10,087	3,285	9,472	3,188	8,136	2,711

Number of offences

Offence	*2006-07*		*2007-08*		*2008-09*	
	North Yorkshire	*York CSP*	*North Yorkshire*	*York CSP*	*North Yorkshire*	*York CSP*
Other offences	622	200	588	165	656	207

[1] The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Crime: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* crimes, *(b)* crimes of domestic burglary and *(c)* violent crimes there were in Salford in (i) 1997 and (ii) the last 12 months for which figures are available. [322411]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information for Salford is not available centrally prior to 1999-2000. In 2008-09, there were a total of 26,549 crimes recorded by the police in the Salford Community Safety Partnership area. Within this total, there were 2,182 offences of domestic burglary and 4,657 offences of violence against the person.

Crimes of Violence: Statistics

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the figure for police recorded violence would have been in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* 1998-99 using current counting rules; and what methodology was used to establish these figures. [321889]

Mr. Hanson: It is not possible to provide an adequate estimate the number of violent offences the police would have recorded in 1997-98 or 1998-99 based upon the current counting rules as the effect of changes made to these rules cannot be fully quantified over time.

Additionally, there was a major change to the counting rules in April 1998, where the way in which crime was counted changed and the coverage of offences increased. For example, the assault without injury was included for the first time—then termed common assault. Given that the change in 1998 was related to an extended offences coverage and a move to counting crimes on a per victim rather than per offence basis it was reasonable in these circumstances to assume that the change had a one off impact on trends

In April 2002, the National Crime Recording Standard was introduced. This brought in a more victim-focused reporting system, where victim accounts had to be accepted unless there was credible evidence to the contrary. This was proposed by ACPO to ensure better consistency in recording throughout England and Wales.

The Home Office published an online report entitled 'National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS): an analysis of the impact on recorded crime' in July 2003 which evaluated the impact of NCRS on recorded crime figures. The full report can be found here:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/rdsolr3103.pdf

The report estimates that the introduction of NCRS led to a 23 per cent. increase in recording of overall violence against the person offences in 2002-03.

However, the estimate of 23 per cent. relates to an estimated effect in the first year of operation of the NCRS. No similar estimate was made for subsequent years as changes continued to be bedded in. However, the Audit Commission undertook substantial audit work on crime recording in the years following NCRS introduction up until 2006-07, this indicating a generally increasing level of NCRS compliance across forces. Furthermore, it is known that some forces had taken steps to make their recording of crime more victim-oriented prior to the formal introduction of NCRS.

It was not possible to estimate the impact of the NCRS directly beyond the first year of its operation given the inherent difficulties that would arise in asking the police to consider how they would have previously recorded crime under the less well defined rules.

The British Crime Survey is the best guide to long term trends in crime as it has employed a consistent approach to the counting of crimes experienced by the population resident in households over time. Its count of crime is unaffected by changes in level of reporting of crime to the police, in police recording practice or police activity. The survey is one of the largest of its kind and incorporates the experiences of more than 46,000 households in England and Wales. It has one of the highest response rates of voluntary household surveys and is viewed of high quality by independent experts. The BCS records a 41 per cent. decline in violent crime between 1997 and 2008-09.

More information on the current counting rules can be found here:

http://www.countingrules.homeoffice.gov.uk/output/Page1.asp

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on office refurbishments in each of the last 10 years. [320466]

Mr. Woolas: Information on expenditure on office refurbishments over the last 10 years is not held centrally and could be researched only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the amount of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department's buildings in each year since 2005. [316795]

Mr. Woolas: Central Government Departments and their Executive agencies report carbon dioxide emission data from their offices annually as part of the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) reporting process. The latest assessment of government's performance against these targets was published by the Sustainable Development Commission on 18 December 2009

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/soge2009/

The following table provides a breakdown for carbon dioxide emissions from offices in (a) 2005-06, (b) 2006-07, (c) 2007-08 and (d) 2008-09 by the Department, as previously reported:

	Carbon dioxide emissions (tonnes of CO_2)
2005-06	28,981
2006-07	38,889
2007-08	40,353
2008-09	31,276

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in 2009. [317654]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the Home Department's, inclusive of the Criminal Records Bureau, United Kingdom Border Agency and Identity and Passport Service agencies, total consultancy expenditure for the latest financial year available, FY 2008-09, is as follows:

Table 1: Total consultancy expenditure: Home Office headquarters, UKBA, CRB and IPS

Financial year	*Expenditure on consultancy services (£ million)*
2008-09	139

Information on non-departmental public bodies' consultancy expenditure for the latest financial year available, FY2008-09, is as follows:

Table 2: NDPBs' consultancy expenditure

NDPB	*FY 2008-09 (£)*
Independent Police Complaints Commission	578,000
Independent Safeguarding Authority	405,000
National Policing Improvement Agency	22,000,000
Security Industry Agency	387,000
Serious Organised Crime Agency	1,800,000

Consultancy and advisory services cover the provision to the Home Office of objective advice and assistance relating to strategy, structure, management or operations of an organisation in pursuit of its purposes and objectives. The use of external consultants provides the Department with specialist knowledge, skill, capacity and technical expertise that would not otherwise be available.

The Department's overall expenditure on consultancy services represents a small part of the Home Office's overall spend, and at the end of the first half of the current financial year, it stood at some 5.8 per cent. of total overall expenditure, down from 8 per cent. in the previous year.

The Department has in place a series of workstreams designed to bear down on departmental reliance and expenditure on consultancy and other external resources, including being the first Government Department to have introduced (in 2009) prescribed daily fee rates for contractors.

Departmental Paper

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* brands of (i) paper and (ii) paper products his Department uses; and what his Department's policy is on the procurement of those materials. [320028]

Mr. Woolas: During the current financial year the Home Department's *(a)* supplier of (i) paper is Office Depot and its suppliers of (ii) paper products are Office Depot and Lyreco.

The brands of paper used by the Department are: Office Depot, Xerox, Mondi IQ, Evolve, Conquerer, Niceday, Epson and Hewlett Packard.

Paper supplied by brand is as follows:

Table 1

Supplier	*Brand*	*Paper*
Office Depot	Office Depot	recycled paper 80GSM, A3 and A4 80GSM business paper, everyday A5 80GSM, white duplicator paper, A3 and A4 green paper 80GSM, A4 minute sheets, various colours duplicator paper A4 80GSM, A3 and A4 colour printing paper 80GSM and 100 GSM, cream A4 160GSM
	Niceday	photocard high gloss 240GMS P, various colours A4 80 and 160 GSM, various colours duplicator paper A4 80GSM, ijet hi gloss A4 145GSM, blotting paper, colour printing paper
	Mondi IQ	everyday A3 80GSM, FSC MC IQ various colours paper A3 and A4 80 and160 GSM, FSC MC A4160 GSM card, FSC MC IQ A4 GSM, FSC M50percent colorcopy white A4 200 GSM
	Evolve	office copier A3 and A4 80 and 100GSM
	Conquerer	FSC MC wove A4 vellum and cream, MC ultra smooth diamond white, FSC MC laid brilliant white A4 100GSM
	Epson	Glossy photo paper, A4 167GSM matt photo paper
	Hewlett Packard	premier photo, HP C6035A I/J bright white
	Xerox	A3 and A4 premier paper 90 and 100GSM

The brands of paper products used by the Department are: Office Depot, Niceday, Sealed Air, Post-It, Pukka, Tyvek, Lyreco, Impega, Sasco, Elba, Tucson, Collins and Black N Red. The paper products supplied by supplier and brand are as follows:

Table 2

Supplier	*Brand*	*Paper products*
Lyreco	Post-It	sticky notes, indexes, flags
	Tyvek	Envelopes
	Impega	bag C4 manilla rib, ruled manuscript books, tab divider, diaries, envelopes, gussett envelopes
	Lyreco	repo notes, paper index, diaries, wire spiral pads, notebooks, envelopes, film index, dividers, clipboards, sticky notes, shorthand books, manuscript books, window envelopes
	Sasco	year planner
	Elba	dividers, extra wide dividers
	Tucson	Diary
	Collins	Diaries

Table 2

Supplier	*Brand*	*Paper products*
Office Depot	Black N Red	wirebound perforated books, pads, notebooks
	Office Depot	gussett envelopes, window envelopes, diaries, manilla envelopes, sticky notes, flipchart pads
	Niceday	calendars, desk calendars, diaries, wall calendars, year planners, laser labels, pads
	Sealed Air	bubble lined envelopes
	Post-It	indexes, sticky notes
	Pukka	jotta pads

As part of its commitment to the Government's sustainable procurement agenda, the Department's policy is to comply, where possible, with the appropriate 'Quick Win' options.

'Buy Sustainable—Quick Wins' is a set of sustainable specifications for a range of commonly-purchased products which include paper. The products assessed were chosen for their environmental/financial impact, scope for environmental improvement and political or example-setting function.

'Buy Sustainable—Quick Wins' are comprised of both a set of mandatory minimum standards at the market average level and best practice specifications. These best practice specifications are more stretching than the mandatory minimum.

The Department has tailored its catalogue to allow purchasers the option to buy all ranges of paper that comply with the quick wins agenda.

Deportation: Overseas Students

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overseas students were deported from the UK for extremist links in each year since 1997. [321683]

Mr. Woolas: No foreign nationals with leave to be in the United Kingdom as students have been deported on national security grounds since 1997.

Detention Centres

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum-seeking families from *(a)* Afghanistan, *(b)* the Democratic Republic of Congo and *(c)* Somalia have been detained at (i) Dungavel House, (ii) Tinsley House and (iii) Yarl's Wood in each of the last six years. [321095]

Mr. Woolas: The information is not held centrally and could only be provided by checking individual records over the period requested at a disproportionate cost.

Published National Statistics on the number of adults and children held in detention solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly and are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the capacity is at *(a)* Dungavel House, *(b)* Tinsley House and *(c)* Yarl's Wood for detainees; and whether that capacity has ever been reached in each case. [321096]

Mr. Woolas: The capacities at each of the named centres are:

(a) Dungavel House

197 single males, 14 single females, six family beds in two rooms

(b) Tinsley House

116 single males, five single females, 25 family beds in four rooms

(c) Yarl's Wood.

284 single females, 121 family beds in 60 rooms

Dungavel House, Tinsley House and Yarl's Wood are managed as part of the UK Border Agency detention estate and not in isolation. The estate is managed to ensure maximum utilisation of beds. In 2008-09, an average of 95 per cent. of male and female beds were occupied at any one time. This is based on management information only which has not been subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. This information is provisional and subject to change.

Due to the configuration of the family accommodation, it is highly unlikely that overall capacity has ever been reached in any of these centres.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff employed at *(a)* Dungavel House, *(b)* Tinsley House and *(c)* Yarl's Wood have not had a Criminal Records Bureau check completed. [321097]

Mr. Woolas: Detainee custody and escorting officers are checked by the Criminal Records Bureau before they are employed to work in Immigration Removal Centres.

In very exceptional cases where an individual is required to fill a critical post, they may be employed pending clearance.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times staff have been employed at *(a)* Dungavel House, *(b)* Tinsley House and *(c)* Yarl's Wood before completion of their Criminal Records Bureau check in each of the last six years. [321098]

Mr. Woolas: It is not possible to provide a full response to this question without examining individual records at disproportionate cost. The current process is that all staff at immigration removal centres and those performing escorting functions (detention escorting officers) who have detainee contact are checked by the Criminal Record Bureau before they are employed. It is possible that in the past we may have employed essential staff in very exceptional circumstances, without CRB clearance, however these individuals are accompanied by a fully cleared member of staff whilst undertaking their duties and do not have free access to the removal centre or lone access to individuals detained.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* families, *(b)* children aged under 18, *(c)* children aged under 16 and *(d)* children aged under 10 have been transferred from Dungavel House to Yarl's Wood in each of the last six years. [321108]

Mr. Woolas: The following number of families, including children aged under 18, children aged under 16 and children aged under 10 were transferred from Dungavel House to Yarls Wood:

	Number of family transfers	*Children under 18*	*Children under 16*	*Children under 10*	*Not Known*
2010 (Jan-Feb)	5	2	3	0	5
2009	36	1	10	35	31
2008 (Nov-Dec):	9	1	4	5	5

It is not possible to obtain any escorting statistics prior to November 2008 as the information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate costs.

The figures above are normally used for management information only. They have not been subject to the detailed checks that apply for national statistics publications. These figures are provisional and are subject to change.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of detention at *(a)* Dungavel House, *(b)* Tinsley House and *(c)* Yarl's Wood was for (i) a family, (ii) an individual, (iii) children aged under 18, (iv) children aged under 16 and (v) children aged under 10 in each year since 2004. [321109]

Mr. Woolas: The information is not held centrally and could only be provided by checking individual records.

Published National Statistics on the number of adults and children held in detention solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly and are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* families, *(b)* children aged under 18, *(c)* children aged under 16 and *(d)* children aged under 10 have been detained at (i) Dungavel House, (ii) Tinsley House and (iii) Yarl's Wood in 2010. [321110]

Mr. Woolas: Local management information indicates that the following number of families and children have been detained at the removal centres between 1 January 2010 and 6 March 2010:

	Dungavel House	*Tinsley House*	*Yarl's Wood*
Families	6	18	107
Children aged under 18	11	18	140
Children aged under 16	9	16	130
Children aged under 10	3	12	94

Notes:

1. Families may include families with or without children
2. Figures for children are cumulative
3. Some families and children may be recorded more than once if, for example, they have been detained at more than one removal centre during 2010.

The figures provided do not constitute part of national statistics as they are based on management information. This information has not been quality assured under national statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional national statistics on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly. The information is published in the Control of Immigration:

Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom bulletins which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* families, *(b)* children aged under 18, *(c)* children aged under 16 and *(d)* children aged under 10 were detained at (i) Dungavel House, (ii) Tinsley House and (iii) Yarl's Wood in each year since 2004. [321111]

Mr. Woolas: The information is not held centrally and could only be provided by checking individual records.

National Statistics on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly. The information is published in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom bulletins which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the staff to detainee ratio was at each UK immigration removal centre in each of the last six years. [321184]

Mr. Woolas: We do not hold annual staff: detainee ratios. However, we are able to establish what those ratios were at commencement of the contracts for each immigration removal centres and the current position.

The following table sets out ratios for detainee custody officers and does not include managers, supervisors or support staff.

	Contract commencement	*Current*
Brook House	4:30	4:30
Campsfield House	2:65	2:65

	Contract commencement	Current
Colnbrook	2:27	3:44
Dungavel	4:04	4:09
Harmondsworth	2:19	2:16
Oakington	n/a	2:53
Tinsley House	2:12	2:12
Yarl's Wood	4:05	4:05

n/a = Not available

Staff ratios are affected by a range of different factors such as the type of regime operated and the number of anticipated receptions and discharges per day.

The data do not include the three centres operated by the Prison Service.

The figures above are normally used for management information only. They have not been subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. These figures are provisional and are subject to change.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what ministerial visits have been made to *(a)* Dungavel House, *(b)* Tinsley House and *(c)* Yarl's Wood in each of the last 10 years; and what such ministerial visits are planned for 2010. [321185]

Mr. Woolas: I visited Yarl's Wood in November 2008 and more recently, Dungavel House, in December 2009.

Whilst Tinsley House has operated as an immigration removal centre since 1996, Dungavel House did not open until September 2001 and Yarl's Wood originally opened in November 2001, but was closed between February 2002 and September 2003.

I can confirm the following visits by Home Office Ministers to:-

(a) Dungavel House:

The hon. Member for Birmingham Hodge Hill in 2008.

The Member for Harrow East in 2005.

The Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun and the hon. Member for Sheffield Brightside in 2004.

The Member for Stretford and Urmston in 2003 and Lord Foulkes of Cumnock in 2002.

(b) Tinsley House:

The Member for Harrow East in 2005

(c) Yarl's Wood:

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary in February 2010.

My hon. Friend the Parliamentary under Secretary of State for the Home Office, the Member for Hackney South and Shoreditch , in March 2010.

The information above is taken from local management information and is therefore provisional and subject to change.

I am unable to disclose information about planned ministerial visits for reasons of security.

Detention Centres: Glasgow

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what methodology is used to decide which families will take part in the Alternatives to Detention pilot in Glasgow. [321106]

Mr. Woolas: In order to join the pilot, families must:

have at least one minor dependant and no more than can be safely accommodated in one of the pilot flats;

have exhausted their appeal rights (in respect of the lead applicant and any other extant claims);

have no history of violent behaviour, or inclination towards violence;

have no medical problems requiring significant medical intervention;

have no child deemed to be at risk under child protection arrangements;

have no child who is sitting examinations at Standard and Higher Grades within the next three months. (There may be cases where the circumstances are such that the three month period can be shortened—this will be an assessment based on the individual facts of the case.);

be removable;

be able to claim Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR);

be accommodated in Glasgow under the target contract; and on section 95 support.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the likely impact on the economy of changes to the Tier 4 points based system for 2010-15. [321312]

Mr. Woolas: During the course of the review of Tier 4, the student tier of the points based system, the evidence submitted by representative bodies of the education sector, as well as by individual providers, of the impact on the economy arising from any changes was considered alongside all other evidence gathered. A formal impact assessment will be published shortly.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evidential basis was used to determine the level of education most susceptible to fraudulent visa applications when revising the Tier 4 points-based system rules. [321313]

Mr. Woolas: A range of evidence was used to determine the level of education most susceptible to fraudulent applications, including evidence provided by UK Border Agency staff based in the UK and overseas, internal management information, reports made by education providers to the UK Border Agency of non-enrolment and drop-outs, and other information from the education sector.

Entry Clearances: Palestinians

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received on his Department's decision not to issue visas to Palestinian olive oil producers to visit the UK during Fairtrade Fortnight; and if he will make a statement. [320376]

Mr. Woolas: I have received eight representations from Members of Parliament.

The decision to refuse entry clearance to the three Palestinian olive oil producers has been overturned after consideration by the ECO of the information provided, and the Visa Section in Amman is in the process of contacting the applicants.

European Court of Human Rights

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration he has given to *(a)* his policy and *(b)* the UK Border Agency's practice on the detention of children following the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights on 19 January 2010 regarding detention. [320127]

Mr. Woolas: In January 2010 the European Court of Human Rights ruled on a case of immigration detention in Belgium involving a mother and her children. The court ruling was not concerned with the policy on detention as such but the conditions in which the children were detained. In particular, the fact that they were held in a closed transit centre, which was not designed to house children and was not appropriate for housing children. As a consequence of this the court ruled that their detention was unlawful. The mother's detention was deemed lawful.

The UK Border Agency has 11 immigration removal centres, three of which are designed to meet the needs of families with children. We do not therefore consider that the ruling impacts on the UK's policy of detaining families with their children as a last resort to enforce their departure from the UK where they have no basis of stay and have failed to leave the country voluntarily.

Fraud: Credit Cards

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of offences related to *(a)* credit card and *(b)* mortgage fraud affecting residents in the London Borough of Bexley were reported in each of the last five years. [322183]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available from the police recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office. It is not possible to separately identify credit card and mortgage fraud from other offences within the fraud and forgery offence group.

The measurement of fraud is challenging as it is known to be very substantially under-reported to the police. Financial institutions will encourage customers (both personal and business) to report cheque, plastic card or online bank account fraud directly to them and not the police in the first instance. Fraud reported to financial institutions will then only be reported to the police if they are satisfied that there is a reasonable chance of a suspect being brought to justice through police investigation.

In addition to the fraud and forgery offences which are recorded by the police, the Home Office publishes information on plastic card offences identified by the UK Card Association along with findings from the British Crime Survey (BCS). The BCS provides a measure of plastic card fraud among adult residents in households which is important because it captures data on incidents which are not reported to the police. However, neither of these sources have data at borough level.

Further information is contained in chapter 4 of 'Crime in England and Wales 2008/09', a copy of which is available in the Library.

Identity Cards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department has commissioned *(a)* research and *(b)* other work on the possibility of introducing compulsory identity cards in future. [318713]

Alan Johnson: Identity cards are issued on a voluntary basis and the Identity and Passport Service has not commissioned any research or other work on the possible future introduction of compulsory identity cards.

Immigrants: Detainees

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detainees were transferred from Dungavel House to immigration detention in England in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [321671]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 March 2010]:* The following table shows the number of detainees who left Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre in the years 2007-10.

Year of transfer	*Number of transfers*
2007	2,635
2008	2,160
2009	2,389
2010 (January and February)	381

The Detainee Escorting and Population Management Unit (DEPMU) is responsible for bed space management within the UK Border Agency's detention estate. The unit seeks to minimise movements within the estate in the interests of providing a settled regime and the efficient use of escorting resources.

Movement of detainees around the estate is required for operational reasons, most often to:

Position detainees close to airports prior to removal

Position detainees for court appearances

Position detainees for hospital appointments

Position detainees for embassy/documentation interviews

Facilitate the movement of detainees to more secure locations for security/behavioural reasons

Ensure bed space is fully utilised

The data provided includes movements for the reasons outlined above in addition to those for removal. The information is taken from data normally used for management information only. It has not been subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications and is provisional and subject to change.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been detained at each immigration detention centre in the last six months for which figures are available; and what the average period of detention was. [321957]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 12 March 2010]:* The number of children who entered detention solely under Immigration Act powers for the last six months of 2009 is published in table 9 of the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom Third

Quarter and Table 9.1 of the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom Fourth Quarter which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Information on the average period of detention is not available, however Table 12 of the above publications show the length of time children were in detention as at the last day of each quarter.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times Ministers have signed an authorisation for the detention of a child at an immigration removal centre beyond 28 days in each of the last six months. [322379]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 March 2010]*: Local management information indicates that the following referrals for ministerial authorisation of the continued detention of a child beyond 28 days under Immigration Act powers have been made in each of the last six months. The information is shown in the following table:

Month of initial referral	*Number of families referred to the Minister for authorisation of detention of children beyond 28 days*	*Number of children referred to the Minister for authorisation of detention beyond 28 days*
September 2009	12	18
October 2009	6	8
November 2009	5	9
December 2009	2	2
January 2010	0	0
February 2010	6	10

Notes:

1. The figures only included those cases where detention continued beyond 28 days and only the first referral for each child.
2. The figures provided do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on management information. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional.

National Statistics on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly. The information is published in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom bulletins which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Immigration

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in each local authority area have been granted discretionary leave to remain in the UK in each year since 1997. [321087]

Mr. Woolas: Home Office do not maintain data on persons in each local authority area who have been granted discretionary leave to remain in the UK.

Information on the local authority that the individual was recorded to be residing in at the time of the grant of discretionary leave is not available and could only be obtained at disproportionate costs by examination of individual case records.

Internet: Safety

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will hold discussions with the owners of *(a)* Facebook and *(b)* other social networking sites on improving (i) online security and (ii) advice on security for users of such sites. [322016]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We take the safety of children and adults on the internet very seriously, and we created CEOP (the Child Exploitation and Online Protection) to develop a law enforcement capability to fight the sexual abuse of children in the online environment, and to provide a body to act as the national centre for this crime. CEOP have developed the "ClickCEOP" button for use on social networking and other sites, to allow users who feel threatened to report direct to CEOP.

We expect the providers of these sites to take the safety of their users seriously, and we would urge them to put the "ClickCEOP" button on their website.

The Home Secretary and I will be meeting Facebook shortly, to discuss online safety with them.

Offenders: Deportation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 372W, on offenders: deportation, what the country of origin of each offender was; for what crime each was convicted; and from which institution each went missing. [319693]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 1 March 2010]*: I shall let the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell have a reply as soon as possible.

Police: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding was provided in Birmingham for *(a)* policing and *(b)* victim support services in each year since 1997. [321578]

Mr. Hanson: The information available can be found in the following tables. There is no available breakdown on figures just for Birmingham, as it is included in West Midlands figures:

West Midlands police authority funding

	Total Government grants[1] *(£ million)*
1997-98	324.3
1998-99[2]	341.0
1999-2000	348.8
2000-01	363.3
2001-02	384.6
2001-02[3]	375.8
2002-03	397.4
2003-04	437.7
2004-05	442.8
2005-06	460.9
2005-06[4]	468.0
2006-07	491.8

West Midlands police authority funding

	Total Government grants[1] (£ million)
2007-08	519.3
2008-09	541.4
2009-10 (planned)	601.3

[1] This figure comprises the Home Office Police Grant and certain Specific Grants and Capital Provision, and also the Revenue Support Grant and National Non-Domestic Rates (both provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government).

[2] For the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) in 1998-99.

[3] For the National Crime Squad (NCS) in 2001-02.

[4] For pensions and security funding in 2005-06.

Note:

Figures are not directly comparable across all years because of adjustments to the base line for funding transfers from general grant.

West Midlands victim support services funding

	Office of Criminal Justice Reform funding for victim support (£ million)
2001-02	1.383
2002-03	1.437
2003-04	1.465
2004-05	1.579
2005-06	1.612
2006-07	1.622
2007-08	1.622
2008-09	1.886
2009-10 (planned)	1.901

Note:

Figures provided by the Office of Criminal Justice Reform.

The table above illustrates funding given to West Midlands victim support in the past nine years. There is no available breakdown on figures for West Midlands before 2001.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were employed by West Midlands Police *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available. [322263]

Mr. Hanson: There were 7,113 police officers in West Midlands police force as at 31 March 1997 and 8,613 police officers as at 30 September 2009.

This and other related data are published annually as part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in *(a)* 2000 and *(b)* 2009. [322649]

Mr. Hanson: There were 121,956 police officers in the 43 police forces of England and Wales as at 31 March 2000 and 142,209 police officers as at 30 September 2009.

This and other related data are published annually as part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Police: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers there were in Milton Keynes in each year since 1997 and *(b)* police community support officers there were in Milton Keynes in each year since 2002. [321872]

Mr. Hanson: The available data are provided in the table. This information has been collected at Basic Command Unit level since March 2002 for police officers and since June 2005 for police community support officers.

This and other related data are published annually as a supplementary part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Police officer[1] and police community support officer[2] strength in Milton Keynes Basic Command Unit, as at 31 March[3]

	Officer[1]	PCSO[2]
2002	342	n/a
2003	346	n/a
2004	371	n/a
2005[2]	378	11
2006[2]	383	14
2007	396	19
2008	389	66
2009	419	73

[1] Data for police officers by Basic Command Unit were collected centrally for the first time for the period beginning April 2002. Data for 31 March 2002 were published by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary. No data broken down by Basic Command Unit are available centrally prior to 2002.

[2] Data for police community support officers by Basic Command Unit are only available from 2005. Data are at 30 June for 2005 and 2006, from a special collection made until data were included in the main statistical run. Data for 2007 onwards are at 31 March.

[3] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Police: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were based in Salford in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the last 12 months for which figures are available. [322410]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the number of police officers has only been collected at basic command unit level since March 2002.

There were 541 police officers in Salford basic command unit as at 31 March 2002 and 585 police officers as at 31 March 2009.

This and other related data are published annually as a supplementary part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Police: Standards

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what key performance indicators will be included in his Department's league tables on the performance of police forces for 2009-10. [321829]

Mr. Hanson: Following the 2008 Policing Green Paper, the Home Office no longer assesses the performance of police forces in England and Wales.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) launched their assessment of individual police forces (their 'Police Report Card') on 11 March for the period 2008-09. Future assessments of police performance will be published by HMIC.

The 'Police Report Card' draws information from the Home Office's Analysis of Policing and Community Safety (APACS) performance indicators.

The technical guidance for the APACS indicators for 2009-10 can be found at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/performance-and-measurement/Guidance_On_SPIs_for_APACS_1.html

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the performance tables for police forces in England and Wales for 2009-10 will be published. [321856]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 12 March 2010]:* Following the publication of the 2008 Policing Green paper, the Home Office no longer assesses the performance of police forces in England and Wales.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) launched their assessment of individual police forces (their 'Police Report Card') on 11 March and copies have been provided to the House Library.

Future assessments of police performance will be published by HMIC and can be found on their dedicated website at:

www.mypolice.org.uk

Policing: West Yorkshire

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department allocated for *(a)* policing and *(b)* victim support services in West Yorkshire in each year since 1997. [322694]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information can be found in the following tables.

West Yorkshire police authority funding

	£ million[4]
1997-98	243.6
1998-99[1]	252.9
1999-2000	258.8
2000-01	273.7
2001-02	289.3
2001-02[2]	282.6
2002-03	302.9
2003-04	318.1
2004-05	328.8
2005-06	343.4
2005-06[3]	343.0
2006-07	356.8
2007-08	373.3
2008-09	387.7
2008-09	396.1
2009-10	437.6

[1] For the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) in 1997-98.

[2] For the National Crime Squad (NCS) in 2001-02.

[3] For pensions and security funding in 2006-07.

[4] This figure comprises the Home Office Police Grant and certain Specific Grants and Capital Provision, and also the Revenue Support Grant and National Non-Domestic Rates (both provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government).

Note:

Figures are not directly comparable across all years because of adjustments to the base line for funding transfers from general grant.

West Yorkshire Victim Support Services funding

	£ million Office of Criminal Justice Reform funding for Victim Support
2001-02	1.0
2002-03	1.0
2003-04	1.1
2004-05	1.2
2005-06	1.2
2006-07	1.2
2007-08	1.2
2008-09	1.4
2009-10	1.1

Source:

Figures provided by the Office of Criminal Justice Reform.

The table above illustrates funding given to West Yorkshire Victim support. There is no available breakdown on figures for West Yorkshire before 2001.

West Yorkshire will have received additional funding from local fundraising.

Powers of Entry

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individual powers of entry are exercisable by local authorities. [319635]

Mr. Hanson: The list of statutory powers of entry including those exercised by local authorities can be found on the Home Office website at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/operational-policing/powers-pace-codes/powers-of-entry-review/index67d9.html?version=2

SERCO

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much work in progress of post awaiting processing by SERCO for *(a)* Case Resolution Directorate North and *(b)* Case Resolution Directorate South there was (i) in each of the last four quarters and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available. [320080]

Mr. Woolas: The chief executive of the UK Border Agency, Lin Homer will provide the Home Affairs Select Committee, in the next update, further information on the performance of SERCO within the Case Resolution Directorate.

UK Border Agency

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures the UK Border Agency follows in respect of immigration applications from individuals suspected of holding extremist views. [318335]

Mr. Woolas: We do not disclose our methods as to do so would invite abuse.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures the UK Border Agency follows in respect of immigration applications from individuals who have been investigated in the US for suspected links to terrorism. [318336]

Mr. Woolas: It is our policy not to publicise details of anti-terrorist policies in this respect.

UK Border Agency: Complaints

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints about asylum applications submitted prior to March 2007 were made to the UK Border Agency's Case Resolution Directorate in each of the last five years. [320884]

Mr. Woolas: Robust data can only be provided from February 2008. The Case Resolution Directorate received 1916 complaints in 2008 and 1160 complaints in 2009, relating to applications submitted prior to March 2007.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints about an application by a national of a country in the European Economic Area were made to the UK Border Agency in each of the last five years. [320890]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency does not hold central information to the level of detail asked for in this question. However, data is available relating to all types of complaints about the service that the Agency provides. In 2008 there were 10,835 such complaints received by the Agency and in 2009 there were 12,038.

UK Border Agency: Pay

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the UK Border Agency was of overtime payments in the last 12 months; how many hours of overtime were claimed for; and if he will make a statement. [320791]

Mr. Woolas: The cost to the United Kingdom Border Agency of overtime payments in the last 12 months (February 2009 to January 2010) was £10.5 million out of a total wage bill to the UKBA of £882.4 million.

The above figure(s) do not include, for the first two months, overtime, or wages incurred within the Border Force Detection function moved to the United Kingdom Border Agency from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs in the machinery of Government transfers taking place on 1 April 2009. Because rates of overtime can differ in respect of the days on which work falls, and individual pay rates of the recipients concerned it is not possible to convert the above figures into hours of overtime claimed for, except at disproportionate cost.

Work Permits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* in country and *(b)* out of country work permits were approved in each year since 2004. [321599]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 11 March 2010]*: The work permit scheme closed on 26 November 2008. Figures for the number of work permits approved in the period 2004-08 are as follows:

Work permit approvals

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
In country	78,380	63,795	62,665	54,940	54,575
Out of country	77,895	73,265	82,305	76,130	69,155

Notes

1. Figures are rounded to nearest five. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

2. The figures include both new permits and those approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 18 March 2010

PRIME MINISTER

Creative Industries

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Prime Minister who has been invited to attend the meeting on the creative industries with his special adviser on 19 March 2010. [322856]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

Reading Berkshire

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Prime Minister whether he sought to inform the hon. Member for Reading East of his visit to Reading on Monday ! March in advance of the visit. [322487]

The Prime Minister: I understand my office did seek to inform the hon. Member of the visit in advance.

WALES

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on office refurbishments in each of the last 10 years. [320465]

Mr. David: In the current financial year the Wales Office spent £8,186 on new furniture to provide a dedicated Video Conference facility which links our London and Cardiff offices. In 2008-09 there was no expenditure on refurbishment. In 2007-08 the Wales Office spent £52,900 on a refurbishment project to replace worn and damaged carpets, furniture and curtains, including bomb blast curtains, for health and safety as well as security reasons. There has been no expenditure on refurbishment in previous years.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was paid in reimbursable expenses to special advisers in his Department in each of the last five years. [320478]

Mr. Hain: The amount claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers is:

	£
2004-05	2,520.71
2005-06	2,037.60
2006-07	2,671.39
2007-08	1,462.17
2008-09	7,070.67

The increase in costs in 2008-09 was because the Wales Office had only one special adviser who was based in Cardiff and who needed to be in London for work on a regular basis. All official travel by special advisers is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps the Department is taking to deter theft from within the Department. [322657]

Mr. Hain: My Department operates a clear desk policy, ensuring that all personal or sensitive material is locked away at the end of each working day. We also have 24/7 security at both our London and Cardiff based sites.

HEALTH

Arthritis

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs with a special interest in rheumatology there are in *(a)* each primary care trust area and *(b)* England. [323219]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on the number of general practitioners with special interests in individual specialties is not collected centrally and could not be obtained other than at disproportionate expense.

Arthritis: Drugs

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Prime Minister's press conference of 25 January 2010, what steps *(a)* have been taken and *(b)* the Department of Health has been asked to take in relation to RoActemra. [322268]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is an independent body and it would not be appropriate for Ministers to interfere in an ongoing technology appraisal. I wrote to the Prime Minister on 9 March 2010 to assure him that RoActemra for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis is receiving a thorough assessment through NICE's technology appraisal process.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 807W, on arthritis: drugs, if he will place in the Library a copy of his letter to the Prime Minister. [322269]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No, because it relates to the formulation of Government policy.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on methadone replacement programmes in South Sefton Primary Care Trust in each year since 2000; and how many individuals have received treatment under these programmes. [322638]

Gillian Merron: Figures for the amount of money spent on methadone programmes in South Sefton Primary Care Trust (PCT) are not collected centrally.

Drug treatment consists of packages of individualised care based on an assessment of an individual's need. Typically opioid substitution treatment with prescribed drugs like methadone and buprenorphine is only one of a number of components of effective treatment programme. This makes it difficult to isolate the cost of a single component, such as methadone prescribing.

The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) records the number of people receiving prescribed opioid substitute treatment (methadone or buprenorphine) from specialist services or their general practitioner (GP), but not which drug they are being prescribed. Figures for the Sefton drugs partnership area are shown in the following table:

	Number
2005-06	985
2006-07	1,130
2007-08	1,156
2008-09	1,234

Notes:
1. Data for years before 2005-06 were not broken down to local areas and are therefore unavailable.
2. Figures combine numbers receiving prescribed opioid substitute treatment from specialist community services or GPs.
3. NDTMS does not record which drug is prescribed (methadone or buprenorphine).
4. Figures for South Sefton PCT are not collected centrally by the NDTMS.
Source:
National Treatment Agency

Health Services: Dance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the dance classes offered under his Department's Change for Life programme. [322238]

Gillian Merron: Free dance classes were offered on 6 and 7 March 2010 as part of the Let's Dance with Change4Life promotion. The Fitness Industry Association provided at no cost to the public purse the dance classes which had an equivalent value of £1.2 million. The Department spent £650,000 on publicising the classes and digital expenses related to the Let's Dance with Change4Life website.

Health Services: Greater London

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of patients who used accident and emergency services in London North West district in each of the last five years. [322443]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information is not held in the format requested. Information is available on the number of attendances at accident and emergency (A and E) departments for individual national health service trusts.

The NHS trusts in London north west with an A and E department in at least one of their sites are: Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust; North West London Hospitals NHS Trust; Ealing Hospital NHS Trust; Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust; West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust; and Chelsea and Westminster Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

The information is shown in the following table.

Total attendances at A and E departments and minor injury units, NHS organisations in England, including activity at partner PCTs, 2004-05 to 2009-10 Quarter (Q) 3

Name	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10 Q1-Q3*
London north-west combined	827,016	916,634	923,512	957,951	970,629	780,613
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	86,996	115,142	117,189	126,226	129,866	102,328
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	197,679	210,882	204,407	224,375	239,886	214,364
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	97,375	101,134	102,801	102,101	98,324	74,861
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	130,905	266,927	205,777
St Mary's NHS Trust	139,529	155,588	154,134	78,676	n/a	n/a
The Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	108,882	112,644	110,011	56,150	n/a	n/a
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	90,019	107,373	118,558	123,768	119,011	98,754
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	106,536	113,872	116,413	115,752	116,616	84,528

Notes:
1. Independent sector-provided services were added in Quarter 1 2007-08. These data were collected retrospectively at the end of 2007-08. They were added to the QMAE from Q1 2008-09.
2. "n/a" = not applicable. Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust was formed on 1 October 2007 from the merger of St Mary's NHS Trust and the Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust. St Mary's NHS Trust and the Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust activity in 2007-08 is in respect to Q1 and Q2, while Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust is in respect of Q3 and Q4.
Source:
Department of Health dataset QMAE. Published. Revised 12 February 2010 in line with the Department's revision policy.

Hearing Aids

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people for whom analogue hearing aids *(a)* are the preferred and *(b)* most appropriate type of aid; [322903]

(2) how many *(a)* analogue and *(b)* digital hearing aids the NHS has issued in (i) Ribble Valley, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) England in each of the last five years. [322905]

Phil Hope: NHS hearing aids are provided by qualified audiologists who undertake individual assessments. The assessment determines whether an individual requires a hearing aid and if so what type is suitable for their hearing loss. The Department does not collect central information on the types of analogue or digital hearing aids that have been dispensed or individuals' preferences.

In Vitro Fertilisation

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what obligation *(a)* strategic health authorities and *(b)* primary care trusts have in respect of NHS guidance on the provision of three cycles of in-vitro fertilisation treatment to NHS patients; [322809]

(2) how many primary care trusts provide up to three cycles of in-vitro fertilisation treatment to NHS patients; [322810]

(3) how many strategic health authority regions provide three cycles of in-vitro fertilisation treatment to NHS patients. [322811]

Gillian Merron: A Department survey of primary care trusts (PCTs), in 2009, showed that 27 per cent. provided three cycles of in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment to patients who fulfilled the criteria for funding, an increase from 5 per cent. in 2007. A further 23 per cent. of PCTs provided two cycles and 47 per cent. provided one cycle. Information on IVF provision at the level of strategic health authority (SHA) is not collected centrally.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence was commissioned by this Government to produce a clinical guideline on fertility. Published in 2004, the guideline recommended the provision of up to three cycles of IVF for eligible couples.

There is no obligation on either SHAs or PCTs to adopt the recommendations set out in the fertility guideline, but the Government have made clear that they expect national health service organisations to do so over time using available resources.

To support PCTs in this we have undertaken a programme of work, including the publication of a commissioning aid considering the barriers to the provision of IVF, dissemination of standardised access criteria prepared by patient group Infertility Network UK, and have held the first ever conference for commissioners of fertility treatments.

Medical Treatments Abroad

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 191W, on medical treatments abroad, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the increase in the number of E112 authorisations relating to maternity care between 2007 and 2008. [322791]

Gillian Merron: Between 2007 and 2008, the United Kingdom, in line with other European Economic Area (EEA) countries, switched from funding planned maternity care using the Electronic Health Insurance Card to issuing an E112 in order to inform capacity planning throughout the EEA area. This change explains the increase in maternity-related E112s between 2007 and 2008.

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 192W, on Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust, if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence relating to mortality rates at the Trust in each of the years referred to in the answer. [322367]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

NHS: Billing

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has provided to primary care trusts and other NHS purchasing departments on the recommended time period for payment to suppliers. [322824]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The guidance issued by this Department to the national health service on the recommended time period for payments to suppliers is contained within the NHS Manuals for Accounts. In summary, this states that all NHS trusts, primary care trusts (PCTs) and strategic health authorities (SHAs) must comply with the Better Payment Practice Code by paying at least 95 per cent. of bills within contract terms or within 30 days where no terms have been agreed.

In addition, David Nicholson, the chief executive of the NHS, has written to NHS trusts, PCTs and SHAs emphasising the importance placed on prompt payment, and the need to comply with both the Better Payment Practice Code and Government Accounting. He has also reminded them that they have a key economic role to play in their local communities and of the importance of having best practice payment processes in place. Monitor, the independent regulator for foundation trusts (FTs), has also written to FTs regarding prompt payment processes.

NHS: Contracts

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of NHS organisations which have outsourced their finance departments to *(a)* SBS in India, *(b)* other companies in India and *(c)* other foreign countries. [322803]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: NHS Shared Business Services (NHS SBS) is a 50:50 joint venture between the Department and Steria and provides shared finance and accounting services to 100 national health service organisations. NHS SBS delivers services through an integrated onshore and offshore model. Its offices are based in Leeds, Bristol, Southampton and Ilford in the United Kingdom, and in Noida and Pune in India.

The Department does not hold data on other outsourced finance contracts and the locations from which they are delivered.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the National Programme for IT's *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue expenditure was spent on (i) the central contracts with CSC and BT in each financial year since 2004 and (ii) operating Connecting for Health. [314569]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information is not available in the form requested. The Department does not routinely collect whole-programme management information relating to expenditure on the national programme for information technology (IT) separately from figures covering its wider responsibilities for national health service TV.

Social Services

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will conduct a review of the arrangements for the funding and allocation of wardens in sheltered housing accommodation and the provision of low-level social care in England. [307360]

Mr. Ian Austin: I have been asked to reply.

The provision of sheltered housing schemes is non-statutory and the employment of wardens and care workers within those schemes is a matter for local authorities and other providers of sheltered housing.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departmental Energy

Mr. Doran: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission further to his answer of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 836W, on departmental energy, if the Commission will make arrangements for the House to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010. [323512]

Nick Harvey: It has now been agreed that, for the hour in question, the floodlights and clock lighting will be turned off, and those working on the Estate will be encouraged via the intranet to turn off their office lights.

Parliament: Environment

Mr. Doran: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what targets the House of Commons Commission plans to set to improve Parliament's environmental performance. [323513]

Nick Harvey: The Commission has recently endorsed Parliament's new environmental policy statement and the following short and long term environmental targets:

To reduce carbon emissions by 7 per cent. by 2010-11 and 34 per cent. by 2020-21, relative to 2008-09;

To reduce water consumption by 12 per cent. by 2010-11 and 25 per cent. by 2020-21, relative to 2008-09;

To reduce the volume of waste generated by 10 per cent. by 2010-11 and 25 per cent. by 2020-21, relative to 2008-09, and

To recycle 60 per cent. of waste generated by weight by 2010-11 and 75 per cent. by 2020-21.

These targets address current UK and international environmental commitments and expectations, including the 10:10 carbon emissions reduction campaign, as well as the operational arrangements for Parliament in 2010-11. They are supported by a robust environmental improvement plan to ensure the targets are achieved.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Bearwood Corporate Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission if the Electoral Commission will place in the Library a copy of the report of its investigation into Bearwood Corporate Services; [322794]

(2) if the Electoral Commission will place in the Library a list of the officials and staff of the Conservative Party who did not accept the invitation for interview with representatives of the Electoral Commission as part of its investigations into Bearwood Corporate Services; [322795]

(3) if the Electoral Commission will place in the Library a copy of the report by forensic accountants commissioned as part of the Electoral Commission's investigations into Bearwood Corporate Services. [322796]

Mr. Streeter: I will give the hon. Member substantive replies as soon as possible.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Indian Ocean Territory: Fisheries

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress he has made in renegotiation of the contract with the Marine Resources Assessment Group for management of fisheries in the Chagos Islands. [322859]

Chris Bryant: No renegotiation of the British Indian Ocean Territory Administration's current contract with Marine Resources Assessment Group Ltd. has taken place. The current contract is due to expire at the end of May and there is an option to extend that contract for a further year under the current terms. Any new contract for management of the territory's fisheries would be put out to tender.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the development of Iran's nuclear programme; and if he will make a statement. [323132]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General's 18 February report outlines why we have serious concerns with regards to Iran's nuclear programme. Iran continues to stockpile enriched uranium and develop heavy water projects in defiance of UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs).

Iran has gone further and has announced its intention to build more enrichment plants and begun some enrichment to higher levels (20 per cent. U-235) despite the IAEA asking for sufficient time to install safeguards measures. Most importantly I share the IAEA's concerns about the possible existence in Iran of past or current undisclosed activities related to the development of a nuclear payload for a missile. Iran must either comply with UNSCRs and co-operate with the IAEA, or face further sanctions.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development: Israel

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what account the Government plans to take of Israel's observance of OECD rules on *(a)* corruption, *(b)* intellectual property rights and *(c)* extraterritorial economic activity in determining its policy on Israel's application for OECD membership. [322902]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK supports Israel's bid for accession to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

On the specific points raised:

(a) Israel became a party to the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention on 10 May 2009, and has made significant progress in this field, amending its legislation on sanctions for, and jurisdiction over, the offence of bribery of foreign public officials, in response to the recommendations of the Working Group on Bribery. We now look to Israel to address the remaining recommendations of the Working Group

(b) During the accession process, Israel made significant commitments to make changes in its regulatory framework for the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights.

(c) There are a small number of issues, in particular the scope of statistical data, which are being resolved in the course of the accession process.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Charities: Food

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information her Department holds on the number of *(a)* food banks and *(b)* food co-operatives providing free or affordable food for poor people. [320981]

Jim Knight: Information on the number of such organisations is not held centrally.

Cold Weather Payments: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each Chelmsford postcode district received cold weather payments in each of the last six months. [320984]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 8 March 2010]:* The information requested is not available by Chelmsford postcode districts. Cold weather payment information is only available by weather station. The weather stations that cover the Chelmsford postcode districts also cover areas that are not part of the districts.

For winter 2009-10, for Great Britain, to 3 March an estimated 11.8 million cold weather payments worth an estimated £296 million have been authorised. Payments authorised have not necessarily already been paid.

The Government provide information about Cold Weather Payments on the Directgov website at:

www.direct.gov.uk

This includes the eligibility rules, details of how payments are made and a postcode search which allows customers to find out whether the weather station that is linked to a specific postcode has triggered.

Source:

DWP records of triggers to weather stations up to and including 3 March 2010 and estimates of potential qualifiers by weather station.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in reimbursable expenses to special advisers in her Department in each of the last five years. [320481]

Jonathan Shaw: Please see in the following table the details of reimbursable expenses to special advisers in each of the last five years.

Total expenses paid

Financial Year	*(£)*
2005-06	427.50
2006-07	428.48
2007-08	349.90
2008-09	226.60
2009-10	[1]32.00

[1] To date

Reimbursable expenses are expenses claimed by special advisers and do not include expenses which are paid directly by the Department for example centrally booked travel, mobile phones provided under a central contract etc.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many sessions of media training were organised for Ministers in her Department in each of the last three years. [310240]

Jonathan Shaw: This information is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Economic Activity

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the economic activity rate was for *(a)* men and *(b)* women with (i) no long-term health problems, (ii) long-term health problems, (iii) long-term musculo-skeletal problems, (iv) chest problems, (v) heart problems, (vi) mental illnesses and (vii) learning difficulties in each (A) region and (B) country of the UK in (1) 2006 and (2) 2009. [321043]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the economic activity rate was for (a) men and (b) women with (i) no long-term health problems, (ii) long-term health problems, (iii) long-term musculo-skeletal problems, (iv) chest problems, (v) heart problems, (vi) mental illnesses and (vii) learning difficulties in each (A) region and (B) country of the UK in (1) 2006 and (2) 2009. (321043)

Estimates of economic activity are available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). In accordance with the International Labour Organization (ILO) definition, people are classed as economically active if they are in employment or unemployed.

The estimates provided comprise those who have had a health problem lasting longer than 12 months that may or may not affect their activity; categorised by their main health problem only. Regional data are not available for the more detailed long-term health problem categories due to small sample sizes.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Economic activity rate of people[1] who have a long-term health problem[2]—Region of UK, not seasonally adjusted, three months ending December each year

Percentage

	2006				*2009*			
	Long-term health problem		*No long-term health problem*		*Long-term health problem*		*No long-term health problem*	
	Men	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*
United Kingdom	67	61	90	79	68	62	89	79
North East	61	54	90	79	62	62	88	80
North West	62	59	88	79	65	58	89	78
Yorkshire and Humberside	67	60	91	79	67	63	88	79
East Midlands	72	67	91	81	70	64	90	82
West Midlands	66	60	90	78	69	63	88	77
East	73	65	91	79	76	67	90	81
London	54	47	92	76	51	49	92	76
South East	77	69	91	80	74	68	91	81
South West	71	65	91	82	69	70	89	82
England	72	65	91	81	72	67	90	81
Wales	58	51	89	80	59	55	86	80
Scotland	67	58	91	83	65	61	90	82
Northern Ireland	50	44	87	74	49	41	86	74

[1] Applies to all people of working age (men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59).

[2] Health problem lasting more man 12 months that may or may not limit activity.

Source:

ONS Labour Force Survey.

Economic activity rate of people[1] by main long-term health problem[2]—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted, three months ending December each year

Percentage

	2006		*2009*	
	Men	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*
Musculoskeletal	69	60	69	62
Chest or breathing problems	81	73	82	74
Heart problems	75	71	76	75
Mental illness	23	22	25	28
Learning difficulties	48	39	47	39

[1] Applies to all people of working age (men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59).

[2] Health problem lasting more than 12 months that may or may not limit activity.

Source:

ONS Labour Force Survey.

Employment: Disabled

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information her Department holds on the number of people with *(a)* language difficulties, *(b)* disabilities and *(c)* learning difficulties who have been in employment in Montgomeryshire at any one time since 2005; and if she will make a statement. [322435]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not available.

Future Jobs Fund

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many Future Jobs Fund job vacancies had been submitted to Jobcentre Plus on the latest date for which figures are available; [320300]

(2) how many Future Jobs Fund job vacancies had been uploaded to the Jobcentre Plus computer system on the latest date for which figures are available. [320301]

(3) how many and what proportion of Future Jobs Fund vacancies had remained unfilled after four weeks on the latest date for which figures are available. [320302]

Jim Knight: The Department for Work and Pensions is currently assessing the quality of new sources of information on the Future Jobs Fund. The Department expects to publish official statistics in spring 2010.

Future Jobs Fund: Tyne and Wear

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding was allocated to Tyne and Wear City Region under the Future Jobs Fund on 29 July 2009; and how much of that funding had been spent on each project and programme on the latest date for which figures are available. [322240]

Jim Knight: The information cannot be provided due to its commercially sensitive nature.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the effect on the income of recipients of housing benefit who are moving into work of her Department's proposals to introduce fixed payment awards. [322395]

Helen Goodman: Our policies over the past 12 years have made a real difference in providing increased support to help people on benefits move into work. The introduction of the national minimum wage and tax credits have meant that almost everyone is better off in work than on benefits.

However, for some, the financial gains are not clear enough. The reduction in housing benefit when income increases can discourage people from moving into work even when they are financially better-off by doing so. Many are also concerned about the effect on their benefit income where their income changes and worry about reporting changes to earnings

On 15 December 2009 we launched the consultation document "Supporting People into Work: The next stage of Housing Benefit Reform" which examines how housing benefit might play a part in encouraging people to work. We consulted on a specific proposal to set fixed awards of housing benefit for six months which would be unaffected by increases in income and earnings during that time. This would remove some of the uncertainty over benefit entitlement that comes with going back to work.

The consultation concluded on [illegible] 2010. We are considering the responses that we received as well as the details of how we will take our proposals forward. The level of help that we will provide will depend on final design decisions. We will set out these decisions in due course.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration she has given to reducing the marginal deduction rates in respect of housing benefit claimants moving into work. [322396]

Helen Goodman: Income-related benefits help provide a secure source of income for people out of work or receiving low income in work. Although most people are better off in work due to the introduction of the national minimum wage and tax credits, and the availability of housing benefit and council tax benefit when in work, benefit entitlement can be reduced as their income from working increases. This is known as the benefit taper. The combined taper rate that an individual faces is known as the marginal deduction rate (MDR) and reflects the proportion of any extra pound earned that is lost through increased taxes and national insurance and reduced benefits or tax credits.

The level of the housing benefit taper targets support at those most in need, by ensuring that those with very low income receive help with their living and housing costs, whilst those with higher incomes become independent of benefit and maximising incentives to increase their earnings. Reducing the taper would be expensive and increase the level of income required to become entirely independent of benefit. We need to ensure that the taper in housing benefit continues to balance affordability with targeting support to those on lower income.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment she has made of the operation of local housing allowance; and if she will make a statement. [322403]

Helen Goodman: The local housing allowance was rolled out from 7 April 2008 and is a more transparent way of calculating the rent element of housing benefit for people living in the deregulated private rented sector who make a new claim for housing benefit or for existing customers who change address.

The Department has committed to completing a review of the local housing allowance scheme over a two-year period from the commencement of its roll-out in April 2008. The aim of the review is to monitor the impact of the local housing allowance at a national level, against the original local housing allowance policy objectives.

Jobcentre Plus

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans she has to send to Jobcentre Plus outreach advisers into selected areas of high unemployment; what areas will be selected; and what the budget is for this plan. [322359]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 15 March 2010]*: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what plans she has to send Jobcentre Plus outreach advisers into selected areas of high unemployment; what areas will be selected; and what the budget is for this plan. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus announced in the White Paper "Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving Full Employment" that it would be extending an initiative that has been running in three Districts (Merseyside, South London and South Tyne & Wear Valley) from June 2010.

Jobcentre Plus Advisers will work in the community to deliver an employment-focused outreach service specifically targeting high-density social housing estates and communities with high concentrations of worklessness.

A key theme will be to work with a range of partners and agencies to deliver a holistic approach to tackle deep-rooted, generational worklessness concentrated on social housing estates. This is an extension of our existing partnership activity to do more to target entrenched worklessness in these deprived areas/estates and helping to prevent these communities falling further behind as a result of the economic downturn.

The Department of Work and Pensions Parliamentary Under Secretary, Helen Goodman, announced on Tuesday 9th March which areas have been selected for this community outreach (please see table below). The cost for this activity is £12m a year.

This project is in addition to Jobcentre Plus' wide range of other outreach activity that already sees advisers operating from over 800 locations away from Jobcentres on a regular basis.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Jobcentre Plus: Racism

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints of racism have been made by customers against other Jobcentre Plus staff in each of the last five years, broken down by the smallest geographical area for which information is available; and if she will make a statement. [316598]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your question asking how many complaints of racism have been made by customers against other Jobcentre Plus staff in each of the last five years, broken down by smallest geographical area for which information is available. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I can only provide data to regional level—to provide the data to district level would be of disproportionate cost to Jobcentre Plus and risk individuals being exposed.

Complaints received by Jobcentre Plus include those made about Jobcentre Plus, which include an element of complaint about other parts of government—these are included in the figures.

In addition, there are occasions when the Chief Executive Office of Jobcentre Plus receives some complaints, but these are not broken down by region and are categorised as "discrimination"—therefore the figures below do not include these complaints.

Every working day Jobcentre Plus conducts 50,000 adviser interviews, processes over 20,000 new benefit claims and its Contact Centres receive over 113,000 calls. The number of complaints of racism from customers against Jobcentre Plus staff is very low in the context of the number of interactions between Jobcentre Plus and our customers. However, Jobcentre Plus takes all complaints about racism very seriously.

Please see below the data as described:

Complaints related to racism and ethnicity

Region	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10 to date*
East Midlands	6	3	3	4	6
East of England	3	8	6	0	7
London	18	29	26	11	9
North East	1	3	7	9	3
North West	9	11	6	6	0
Scotland	5	8	5	5	1
South East	7	8	11	4	6
South West	4	10	10	6	6
Wales	3	11	8	10	6
West Midlands	4	10	16	6	9
Yorkshire and Humber	4	7	8	9	3
Not assigned to a region	1	9	3	7	2
National total	65	117	109	77	58

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Management Information.

The data in the table refers to complaints and not proven cases of racism.

All staff are required to adhere to the Department for Work and Pensions Standards of Behaviour which states that:

> "The Department's reputation depends on the quality of service provided and the way in which our employees conduct themselves. This includes treating all customers sympathetically and in a way that complies with the Diversity and Equality Policy."

The Diversity and Equality policy makes it clear that discrimination on the grounds of race will not be tolerated and all complaints that a member of staff have behaved inappropriately when dealing with a customer are thoroughly investigated. Whenever a member of staff is found to have breached the Department for Work and Pensions Standards of Behaviour, then they will be dealt with in accordance with our HR policies.

I hope this information is helpful.

National Employment Savings Trust

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanism is in place to ensure the value for money of administrative services in respect of the National Employment Savings Trust when engaging with a single supplier. [321841]

Angela Eagle: The procurement process for this contract was governed by Public Procurement Rules and DWP Procurement Policy, which aim to achieve value for money.

Throughout procurement, Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) progressively demonstrated they were a strong bidder and this was confirmed by their final bid.

There is now a contract in place to ensure value for money.

New Deal for Young People

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have *(a)* been mandated to participate and *(b)* participated in the New Deal for Young People in each year since 2005. [322860]

Jim Knight: The available information can be found in the following table.

The New Deal for Young People is a mandatory programme for jobseeker's allowance customers who have been claiming for six months. However, customers can volunteer for early entry to NDYP in certain circumstances.

New Deal for Young People—starters (spells) early entrant indicator time series by year of starting the New Deal for GB

Time series—year of starting	*Total*	*Early entrant*	*Normal entrant*
2005	158,940	32,600	126,340
2006	182,510	29,560	152,950
2007	174,690	31,830	142,860
2008	168,930	36,880	132,050
2009	207,930	38,430	169,500

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. The latest New Deal figures will be affected by the introduction of the new Jobseekers Regime and Flexible New Deal (gradual implementation started from April 2009).
3. Early entrant indicator—early entrants are estimated to be those participants who join New Deal for Young People before reaching six months unemployed.
4. Time Series—year of starting is the calendar year of starting New Deal. The New Deal for Young People pilots began in January 1998 and full national roll-out occurred in April 1998. Latest data are to November 2009.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

Social Security Benefits: British Nationals Abroad

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects her Department to recommence the payment of re-instated exportable sickness benefits and back-dated payments due to UK citizens now resident in other EU member states and in Switzerland. [322097]

Jonathan Shaw: Benefits cannot be reinstated automatically without further information from the affected customers. The Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS) will start writing to all affected customers by the end of March 2010. On receipt of the required information, claims for reinstatement will be processed as quickly as possible.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of applications for *(a)* attendance allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance which will be approved under special rules in each of the next five years. [322180]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Mentally Ill

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* other out-of-work benefits as a result of mental health conditions in each year since 1997. [320824]

Jonathan Shaw: As the single biggest cause of both sickness absence and claims for ill health benefits, mental health is a key challenge for the Department and for Government more widely. To address this challenge, we must support people with existing mental health conditions to find, keep or return to a job.

Our employment programmes are designed to be tailored for the employment needs of individual customers regardless of the nature of their health condition or disability. Our recent mental health and employment publications outline practical actions to improve well-being at work for everyone and to deliver better employment results for people who have mental health conditions.

The available information is in the table.

The number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants, with a main disabling condition of a mental and behaviour disorder—Great Britain and abroad

At August each year	*Mental and behavioural disorders*
1997	751,500
1998	794,100
1999	837,180
2000	888,420
2001	947,240
2002	995,330
2003	1,036,950
2004	1,074,980
2005	1,089,150
2006	1,097,460
2007	1,109,290
2008	1,105,170
2009	989,610

Notes:
1. Figures for 1997 and 1998 have been derived by applying 5 per cent. proportions to 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study totals and rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Figures from August 1999 onwards have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation. To qualify for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work which is called the personal capability assessment. Therefore, the medical condition recorded on incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claim form does not itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits, so for example, the decision for a customer claiming incapacity benefit on grounds of a mental and behavioural disorder would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities in the personal capability assessment.
4. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008 and data by medical condition are not yet available for employment and support allowance claims.

Source:
August 1997 and August 1998: Department for Work Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 5 per cent. data.
August 1999 onwards: Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to answer question *(a)* 304402, *(b)* 304401, *(c)* 304400, *(d)* 304393 and *(e)* 304403, on Jobcentre Plus, tabled on 1 December 2009; when she plans to answer question (i) 304392, (ii) 304397, (iii) 304391, (iv) 304390, (v) 304388, and (vi) 304377 on the Future Jobs Fund tabled on 1 December 2009; and when she plans to answer question (A) 304399, (B) 304398 and (C) 304381, on the Flexible New Deal, tabled on 1 December 2009. [317695]

Jim Knight: The hon. Member's questions have been answered as follows:

(a) 304402 on 12 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 507W;

(b) 304401 on 13 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 507W;

(c) 304400 on 14 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 507W;

(d) 304393 on 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 740W;

(e) 304403 on 14 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 507W;

(i) 304392 on 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1029W;

(ii) 304397 on 24 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 570W;

(iii) 304391 on 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1029W;

(iv) 304390 on 12 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-506W;

(v) 304388 on 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1029W;

(vi) 304377 on 24 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 570W;

(A) 304399 on 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 463W;

(B) 304398 on 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 463W;

(C) 304381 on 24 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 572W.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects to answer Question 311758 tabled on 14 January 2010 by the hon. Member for Hertsmere. [320790]

Jim Knight: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 15 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 601-2W.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects to answer questions *(a)* 316961 and *(b)* 316962, tabled on 8 February 2010 by the hon. Member for South West Bedfordshire. [320939]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 5 February 2010]:* I have replied to the hon. Member's questions as follows: 316961 on 15 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 600-01W and 316962 on 16 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 804-05W.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian staff based in Afghanistan receive training on the recognition and reporting of suspected corruption. [319914]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Both the UK and Afghan Governments are party to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, which defines corruption as:

> "The promise, offering or giving to a public official, directly or indirectly, of an undue advantage, for the official himself or herself or another person or entity, in order that the official act or refrain from acting in the exercise of his or her official duties;
>
> The solicitation or acceptance by a public official, directly or indirectly of an undue advantage, for the official himself or herself or another person or entity, in order that the official act or refrain from acting in the exercise of his or her official duties".

HMG officials based in Kabul and Lashkar Gah include Governance and Rule of Law advisors, who are able to identify and advise on how to tackle corruption. The UK Government also provide annual guidance to all embassies and overseas offices on reporting suspected corruption.

In recognition of the importance the UK Government places on dealing with corruption, both military and MOD civilian staff based in Afghanistan receive appropriate training to recognise and report corruption in their functional areas.

Furthermore, all MOD civilian staff, including those based in Afghanistan, adhere to the Civil Service Code and its principles of integrity, honesty, objectivity, impartiality and political impartiality. The importance of dealing with corruption is also outlined in UK Military Doctrine, and included in exercises for military units prior to deployment.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the merits of the replacement of certain uniformed personnel in Afghanistan by *(a)* contractors and *(b)* civilians; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the replacement of those personnel by each type of staff. [[illegible]249]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Contractors and civil servants carry out a wide range of roles in Afghanistan, including at the main hospital in Camp Bastion and in catering posts in main operating bases. They are also employed in specialist roles such as Financial and Commercial Officers. Civil servants and contractors are an important resource on operations, and are principally used to complement military capacity and capability. Their support to operations is highly valued.

Force and manning levels are kept under continual review, and if it is more appropriate to employ a contractor or civilian in theatre than a member of the armed forces then full consideration is given. However, estimating the cost to the public purse of the replacement of military personnel by contractors or civil servants is difficult due to significant differences in their terms and conditions of employment. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when the Armed Forces Home Ownership Scheme pilot was established; and for how long it is intended to run; [321765]

(2) how much the Armed Forces Home Ownership Scheme has provided to members of the armed forces in each year since its inception; and how many members of the armed forces have participated in the scheme in each of those years; [321766]

(3) when he expects to make a decision about the future of the pilot for the Armed Forces Home Ownership Scheme. [321768]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 11 March 2010]:* The Armed Forces Ownership Scheme Pilot was launched on 26 January 2010. It will run until spring 2013. Ahead of that, the Department's Strategic Defence Review will look at the issue of terms and conditions of service.

This initiative forms part of the overall commitment to facilitate access to affordable homes for our armed forces, set out in 'The Nation's Commitment to the Armed Forces', published in July 2008 (The Nation's Commitment: Cross-Government Support to our Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans, CM7424).

The Ministry of Defence has been working with Communities and Local Government and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to develop a pilot, bespoke, shared equity scheme for the armed forces. The HCA have engaged the Swaythling Housing Society to administer the scheme and they have reported a high number of inquiries regarding it, but due to its infancy no house purchase has yet been completed.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cost to his Department was of creating, publishing and distributing the booklet, Transforming Military Accommodation; how many such booklets have been printed; to which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations they were circulated; and for what reasons the booklet was published. [322855]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I will write to the hon. Member.

Armed Forces: Northern Ireland

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of providing military security in Northern Ireland was in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available (i) in cash terms, (ii) in current prices and (iii) as a percentage of the UK's total defence expenditure. [322588]

Bill Rammell: For the purposes of answering this question the cost of providing military security has been interpreted to mean the costs of maintaining a military presence in the Province.

The data requested is shown in the following table:

	Cash outturn (£ million)	*Current prices (£ million)*	*Percentage of total outturn*
1997-98	508	657	[1]2.3
2008-09	131	131	[2]0.4

[1] Departmental outturn for 1997-98—£21,517 million.
[2] Departmental outturn for 2008-09—£28,090 million.

The reduction in the outturn is illustrative of the reduction in the military presence in Northern Ireland.

Armed Forces: Expenses

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the 20 highest of reimbursable expenses amounts were claimed by members of the armed forces with a rank of brigadier or equivalent and above in the last 12 months; and what the expenses were for in each case. [320810]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 8 March 2010]:* Senior officers of the armed forces are generally tasked with a wide range of responsibility which requires them to travel to meetings as well as visits to exercise areas and deployment theatres. Service accommodation is to be used where it is available but this is not always the case and as a result overnight accommodation expenses will be incurred.

In order to reduce expenditure, greater use is being made of video and telephone conferencing. When travel is necessary, all personnel are strongly encouraged to maximise the value of their time away by incorporating several meetings, thus avoiding the need to travel to the same location on separate occasions. If travelling by road, all practical measures are to be taken to allow the sharing of transport. Furthermore, when arranging meetings, due consideration is to be made to holding the meeting at a time that will allow attendees to return to their home units and avoid the need to stay overnight.

The following table provides information on expenditure reimbursed through the Joint Personnel Administration expenses system for those approximate 500 officers holding the rank of brigadier and equivalent and above for the 12 month period ending 28 February 2010.

Serial	*Expense type*	£
1	Nightly Subsistence Allowance[1]	686,000
2	Motor Mileage Allowance	109,000
3	Incidental Expenses—Overseas[2]	44,000
4	Taxi Fare	40,000
5	Rail Fare	31,000
6	Incidental Expenses—United Kingdom[2]	21,000
7	Car Parking	12,000
8	Air Fares	12,000
9	Day Subsistence—Overseas	8,000
10	Day Subsistence—United Kingdom	8,000
11	Hire Car Fuel Costs	7,000
12	Excess Fares	7,000
13	Home to Duty Vehicle Allowance	7,000
14	Get You Home Overseas Allowance	6,000
15	Educational Psychologists Report	5,000
16	Ferry Charges	5,000
17	Foreign Currency Exchange Costs	4,000
18	Underground Fares	3,000
19	Passport/Visa Fees	3,000
20	Home to Duty Cycle Allowance	3,000

[1] Nightly Subsistence Allowance is the cost of bed and breakfast and up to a further two meals in a 24 hour period.
[2] Incidental Expenses are designed to cover necessary personal incidental expenses actually incurred when an overnight absence in a hotel or temporary service single accommodation is occupied. This includes, for example, the cost of a telephone call.

This table only includes reimbursed expenditure and does not include payment for services made directly by the Department.

Defence: Expenditure

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will provide the annual figures for defence expenditure that supports his Department's statement that such expenditure has increased by 10 per cent. in real terms since 1997. [321707]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The statement that the Department has routinely made in terms of the real term increase since 1997 is that:

> "The Defence budget has had the longest period of sustained real growth since the 1980s. It is now over 10 per cent more in real terms than in 1997."

Due to changes in the accountancy methods over this period, the only way to compare historic Defence budgets is through 'Near Cash', which includes those elements measured on an accruals basis that turn into cash transactions quickly. For example: pay, current procurement, and income from sales. The MOD's Near Cash budget is direct RDEL added to capital DEL.

The Near Cash Defence budget in 1997-98 was £21.80 billion, which equates to a real terms value of £28.37 billion at 2008-09 prices using the HM Treasury GDP deflator. For the year 2009-10, the Near Cash Defence budget is £31.92 billion, which equates to a real term value of £31.30 billion. This represents a 10.31 per cent. increase since 1997.

In addition, for the year 2010-11 the planned Near Cash Defence budget is £33.33 billion, which will equate to a real term value of £31.93 billion, an increase of 12.63 per cent. since 1997.

Actual figures are used in the calculation of percentages.

Defence: Scotland

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who in his Department *(a)* was consulted on and *(b)* agreed the Scotland Office Background Paper, Scotland and Defence. [321704]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 11 March 2010]:* Officials in the Ministry of Defence were consulted on, and I agreed, the Scotland Office Background Paper, based upon advice from those MOD officials.

Princess Royal Barracks

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will provide copies of the report of Devon and Cornwall police on the handling by Surrey Police of the deaths of young recruits at Deepcut Army Barracks to the parents of the deceased; and if he will make a statement. [320831]

Bill Rammell: No. This is entirely a matter for the police.

Territorial Army: Shropshire

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding has been allocated to Sundorne Territorial Army base for 2010-11. [322274]

Bill Rammell: Budgets for financial year 2010-11 have yet to be finalised for this site.

TRANSPORT

Public Transport: Rural Access

14. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent studies his Department has undertaken on access to public transport for people living in rural areas. [322765]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport has commissioned studies in northern England, as part of Delivering a Sustainable Transport System, which include rural aspects. We have funded a project with the Improvement and Development Agency to produce and publish guidance on accessible rural transport. We also work closely with the Commission for Rural Communities, and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, who publish a number of studies each year.

Public Transport Usage

15. **Peter Luff:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps he is taking to encourage motorists to make greater use of public transport; and if he will make a statement. [322766]

Mr. Khan: Record levels of investment in the public transport networks by the Department for Transport have led to substantial increases in its usage: over £15 billion has been committed to support the railways between 2009 and 2014; we have increased public expenditure on buses in England to £2.6 billion a year, double the level of support a decade ago; and, around £1 billion is being spent on concessionary travel every year. This investment has resulted in more journeys now being made on the railways than at any time since the 1940s; we are starting to see year-on-year increases in bus patronage—the first time since the 1950s; and, around 11 million people are benefiting from the greater freedom and independence brought through concessionary fares.

Roadworks

16. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has had recent discussions with utility companies on the effects of roadworks on traffic flow on highways. [322767]

Mr. Khan: Street works by utility companies and others contribute to traffic congestion that costs the economy £4.2 billion a year. The Government are committed to reducing the impact of street works on traffic and pedestrian flows, and I have consistently made clear to the utility companies that this level of impact is simply not acceptable.

Kemble to Swindon Line

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions he has had with Network Rail on the re-doubling of the Kemble to Swindon line. [322762]

Chris Mole: Finance totalling £2.6 million has been allocated from the south-west region, the Department for Transport and the Welsh Assembly Government to complete a detailed study into the redoubling of the 13 mile section of line between Swindon and Kemble. This has led to an indicative price of £52.4 million from Network Rail.

Bus Services: Concessions

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much the Government have spent on concessionary bus travel for pensioners in Leeds North West constituency in each year since the scheme was introduced. [322701]

Mr. Khan: Administration of the concessionary travel scheme in Leeds North West is carried out by West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive. The Government provide funding for concessionary travel through two channels: Formula Grant to Leeds city council and special grant to West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority (WYITA).

Before 1 April 2008, funding for the statutory minimum bus concession was provided exclusively through the formula grant system. Formula grant is an unhypothecated block grant and as such it is not possible to identify how much formula grant has been allocated to local authorities for any particular service, such as concessionary travel for older and disabled people.

When the statutory minimum concession increased from half-fare to free fare in April 2006, additional funding of £350 million in 2006-07 and £367.5 million in 2007-08 was added to Formula Grant to fund the additional burden to local authorities.

From April 2008, the Department for Transport has provided additional special grant funding to local authorities to cover the extra costs of providing England-wide travel, of which WYITA received £8,666,725 in 2008-09 and £8,871,129 in 2009-10. The Department for Communities and Local Government continues to provide the bulk of concessionary travel funding to local authorities through Formula Grant.

The following table shows how much was spent on concessionary travel by West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority since 2000, when the Government first introduced a statutory minimum bus concession. These figures include spending on both older and disabled travel concessions and include any discretionary enhancements offered:

West Yorkshire

	£ million
2000-01	21.712
2001-02	23.689
2002-03	21.622
2003-04	21.424
2004-05	21.985
2005-06	20.678
2006-07	39.895
2007-08	42.177
2008-09	45.115

Cycling: Helmets

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he plans to make a formal response to the report commissioned from the Transport Research Laboratory on the potential for cycle helmets to prevent injury. [322823]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not intend to make a formal response to the report on The Potential for Cycle Helmets to Prevent Injury. The Department publishes numerous reports throughout the year and it would not be practical to make a formal response for each report's publication. As with all research carried out for the Department, we will take account of its findings in considering our policies.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Andrew Selous: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which constituencies each Minister in his Department visited in 2009; and on what date each such visit took place. [322384]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 15 March 2010]*: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what information technology projects initiated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were cancelled prior to completion in the last 12 months; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [320421]

Chris Mole: The following are the only major Department for Transport projects known to be cancelled in the last 12 months:

ISYS, an Information Management System costing £110,333, proved to be unsuitable as the software response times were too slow. However, this project helped us to define our requirements and feed into the wider initiative on records management.

TVTTT, a project for Tracking Vehicles Through the Trade, cost £7,800,000 and was cancelled as another project was found to be better and less costly. Agreement was made with the National Audit Office that we would assess how much of the work undertaken was reusable, which will be done in due course.

VINI, a project for Northern Ireland Vehicle Integration Project cost £7,500,000, but changes in vehicle excise duty led to the need to concentrate on other DVLA systems. Much of the analysis work remains valid and may be resurrected in future using some of the existing work.

In each of these cases all efforts are being made to use both the experience gained, and the work already carried out, in future projects.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Ruislip-Northwood (Mr. Hurd) of 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 844-45W, on departmental information officers, what the titles were of each of the embedded communicators in each of the agencies listed; and on what date each such position was established. [320899]

Chris Mole: The titles of the roles of the embedded communicators for each of the Department's executive agencies, together with the date each position was created is set out in the following table.

Number	Title of embedded communicator	Date role(s) created
	Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	
1	Internal Contact Centre Group Manager	1 October 2009
1	The Richard Ley Development Centre Marketing and Events Manager	1 June 2004
1	Marketing Account Manager for Personalised Registrations	1 April 2009
1	Marketing Support Manager for Personalised Registrations	1 October 2008
1	Auction and Events Manager for Personalised Registrations	1 November 2007
1	Marketing Account Manager for Electronic Vehicle Licensing	1 March 2008
1	Marketing Officer for Electronic Vehicle Licensing	1 November 2007
1	Drivers Marketing Account Manager for On-line activities	1 September 2008
1	Drivers Marketing Manager for On-line activities	1 March 2009
1	Data Analyst Team Leader for DVLA Marketing	1 March 2009
1	Drivers Marketing Support for On-line activities	1 March 2009
1	Internal Human Resources Communications Manager	1 April 2007
1	Internal Vehicle Customer Services Communications Manager including on-line website	1 August 2007
1	Internal Strategic Management Communications Consultant Local Services Network	1 August 2008
0.5	Communications Manager for Enforcement of Vehicle Excise Duty	1 August 2008
1	Internal Local Services Network Communications Officer	1 August 2008
2	Internal Local Services Network Communications Support	1 August 2008
	Highways Agency	
1	Communications Manager—Health and Safety	7 December 2009
	Maritime and Coastguard Agency	
0.5	UK Ship Register Specialist Co-ordinator Marketing	February 2007
0.25	Deputy Manager—Seafarer Health and Safety Marketing	October 2009

In the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood (Mr. Hurd) of 9 February 2010, a clerical error led to the number of embedded communicators for the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) being reported as three. There are no embedded communicators in VOSA.

Departmental Legal Costs

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department and its predecessors have spent in *(a)* legal fees and *(b)* compensation on legal cases concerning remuneration of its employees in each of the last 10 years. [322064]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport was formed in May 2002. Information on the costs and compensation in specific types of legal cases is not held centrally either by the Department or its agencies and could not be collated without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Syms: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer to my hon Friend the Member for Ruislip Northwood of (Mr. Hurd) 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 103W, on departmental marketing, how much his Department and agencies have spent on advertising, marketing, public relations and publicity in relation to *(a)* Real Help Now and *(b)* Building Britain's Future themed campaigns to date. [320452]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport and its Executive agencies have not incurred any expenditure in relation to "Real Help Now" and "Building Britain's Future" themed campaigns to date.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much was paid in reimbursable expenses to special advisers in his Department in each of the last five years. [320483]

Chris Mole: As temporary civil servants, special advisers undertake their duties in line with the requirements of the civil service code, civil service management code, and the code of conduct for special advisers, which includes rules on the reimbursement of expenses incurred when carrying out departmental business.

The reimbursable expenses paid to special advisers in the Department for Transport over the past five years is as follows:

Financial year	Total expenses reimbursed (£)
2005-06	184.60
2006-07	110.50
2007-08	514.10
2008-09	755.56
2009-10[1]	1,957.77

[1] Data correct for the financial year up to and including 15 March 2010.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the benchmark results of the Civil Service People Survey for his Department and its agencies. [322577]

Chris Mole: The 2009 People Survey results for the Department for Transport are now available in the Libraries of the House. These results are also available on the Department of Transport website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/staff/staff-survey09

High Speed Two: Freedom of Information

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will direct High Speed Two Ltd. to respond to requests for information from members of the public as if it were a public authority specified under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and if he will make a statement. [322930]

Chris Mole: High Speed Two Ltd. is a "public authority" as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and therefore responds to requests for information by members of the public.

Northern Rail: Rolling Stock

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what timetable he has set for announcing his plans for the provision of extra carriages for Northern Rail, as referred to in the 2007 Rail White Paper. [322364]

Chris Mole: Discussions are taking place with Northern Rail to provide additional vehicles. The Department for Transport has already agreed some initial stages with Northern Rail, whereby 10 diesel vehicles formerly deployed on the Oldham Loop will be retained in the Northern Rail franchise, and Northern Rail will procure a further eight net additional vehicles. These 18 vehicles will be used to lengthen certain train services, principally in Greater Manchester. Further work will continue and further announcements will be made in due course.

Parking

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discretion local authorities have to override the findings of independent parking adjudicators. [322901]

Mr. Khan: A local authority that has been given the power to enforce parking under the Traffic Management Act 2004 must have regard to the Secretary of State's Statutory Guidance to Local Authorities on the Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions (February 2008). Paragraph 102 of that guidance says:

> "If an adjudicator allows the appeal s/he may direct the authority to cancel the Notice to Owner and refund any sum already paid in respect of the penalty charge. The authority must comply with this direction without delay."

Railways: Accidents

John Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps he is taking to reduce the number of fatal and serious injuries to workers on the highway network; and if he will make a statement. [322760]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency published a Road Worker Safety Strategy last year which includes action plan measures to improve the safety for road workers on the Strategic Road Network. The Government are now consulting on proposals to revise the Safety Code of Practice which applies on other roads. The Highways Agency also leads a cross-industry group investigating improvements for road worker safety on high speed roads.

Railways: Construction

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations he has received from city councils on the effect on regional economies of a high-speed rail network. [322752]

Mr. Khan: Over the past year, the Department for Transport has received representations regarding the regional economic effects of high speed rail in the UK from city councils, including Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield and the Association of North East Councils.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he has had discussions with the Department for Communities and Local Government on the likely effects of his preferred route for High Speed Two on the Government's plans for housing and employment in Aylesbury; and if he will make a statement. [322931]

Chris Mole: My right hon. and noble Friend, the Secretary of State for Transport and my right hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Housing, have discussed a range of issues relating to high speed rail.

Railways: Todmorden

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the cost of re-instating the Todmorden Curve. [322756]

Chris Mole: According to a Network Rail study carried out on behalf of the promoters, the cost of re-instating the Todmorden Curve is likely to be in the region of £7 million. This is subject to further studies to establish the ground conditions on the line of the preferred route for the curve.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Rape Cases Stern Review

Julie Morgan: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps she plans to take in response to the Stern Review on the handling of rape cases. [322780]

The Solicitor-General: The Government welcome Baroness Stern's report of her review which recognises the significant improvements made since 1997, but also identifies where more remains to be done to build on this progress.

The Department has published an interim government response and will carefully consider the 23 recommendations in the report before publishing a fuller response later this year.

Rapists must know that they will not get away with it, whatever the circumstances. They stand a more than one in two chance of conviction.

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent representations she has received on the recommendations in the Fifteenth Report from the Committee of Public Accounts, on the Equality and Human Rights Commission, HC 124. [322784]

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent representations she has received on the recommendations in the Fifteenth Report from the Committee of Public Accounts, on the Equality and Human Rights Commission, HC 124. [322785]

Ms Harman: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave earlier today.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many designs for its *(a)* internal website and *(b)* intranet the Government Equalities Office has commissioned since 2005; and what the cost was of each such design. [321990]

Maria Eagle: The GEO does not have an internal website or intranet.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Manpower

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality with reference to paragraph 20 on page 15 of the Public Accounts Committee report on the Equality and Human Rights Commission, HC 124, what conclusions the Commission's Accounting Officer has reached in investigating the reasons behind the continued payment of a former staff member three months after the individual had stopped working for the Commission; and what steps are being taken to recover the payment. [321390]

Maria Eagle: The EHRC is independent and manages its own affairs. The EHRC's Accounting officer has instigated an inquiry into the payment. He will report his findings to the Committee of Public Accounts.

Greater Manchester

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Manchester, Gorton constituency, the effects on that constituency of the policies of the Government Equalities Office since its inception. [322135]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office operates at a strategic level across Government to promote policies which address discrimination. It is not possible to provide statistical information about the effects on Manchester of the policies and actions of GEO since it was established.

Lord Sugar of Clapton

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she has had with Lord Sugar of Clapton on the subject of women in the workplace since his appointment. [310346]

Maria Eagle: I have had no discussions with Lord Sugar on women in the workplace since his appointment as the Government's enterprise champion. However, I have recently met with both the Women's Enterprise Task Force and Lord Davies, the Minister for Trade and Investment to discuss how Government can continue to support female entrepreneurs.

The Government responded to the final report of the Women's Enterprise Task Force in November 2009, and will shortly launch a new strategic framework and action plan aimed at realising our vision of fair and family-friendly labour market where everyone has the opportunity to develop their skills and experience.

Politics: Females

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent assessment she has made of the barriers to women's participation in politics. [322782]

Maria Eagle: This Government are committed to improving women's participation in politics. The Speaker's Conference, which reported in January, identified a number of barriers to women's participation in politics which include cost, culture of political parties, time pressures, lack of support, as well as discrimination.

The Government formally responded to the Speaker's Conference on 10 March, welcoming their report.

We have already responded to one of the report's recommendations by amending the Equality Bill to introduce a power that will require political parties to report on the diversity of their candidate selections. The scope and nature of the reporting requirement will be determined after consultation with political parties and others.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Chile: Earthquakes

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has given to survivors of the recent earthquake in Chile. [322624]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has contributed £250,000 to the Chilean Red Cross for the provision of front line relief work. 600 tents were delivered by Royal Air Force flight to the relief agency World Vision for distribution to families made homeless by the earthquake.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how many people his Department employs to maintain its social media and networking sites; and at what cost; [322552]

(2) how much his Department spent on maintaining its Twitter feed in the latest period for which figures are available; [322556]

(3) how much his Department spent on maintaining its YouTube channel in the latest period for which figures are available; [322558]

(4) how much his Department spent on maintaining its Flickr channel in the latest period for which figures are available. [322595]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has an editorial team of six who maintain the main departmental website. As part of their duties, they all have access to the social media and networking site accounts that have been set up for DFID, including Twitter, Flickr and YouTube, and take part in maintaining them. We do not record work in a way that would make it possible to disaggregate the time spent by individuals on each activity, and therefore are unable to assign specific costs.

Departmental Press Releases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many press releases his Department has issued in the last 12 months. [322557]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) records the number of press releases by calendar year. DFID issued 139 press releases in 2009.

Departmental Sick Leave

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many days absence through sickness staff in his Department have had in each month since 1997. [322521]

Mr. Michael Foster: We are unable to provide figures of the number of days staff have been absent due to sickness, in each month, without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of the benchmark results of the Civil Service People Survey for his Department. [322568]

Mr. Michael Foster: The 2009 People Survey results for the Department for International Development (DFID) are now available in the House Library. These results are also available at

www.dfid.gov.uk

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to deter theft from within the Department. [322651]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) takes all thefts seriously and has a number of physical security measures in place, including CCTV, to ensure that only authorised persons access our premises. All staff are regularly reminded that they have responsibility for protecting official assets in their custody and given guidance and facilities for secure storage. All thefts are reported to our security section for any breach of security practice.

Individuals found to be involved in theft will be subject to disciplinary and, where appropriate, criminal proceedings.

Developing Countries: Literacy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent initiatives his Department has funded to improve adult literacy in developing countries. [322540]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) approach to tackling adult literacy is stated in the recently launched Education Strategy, 'Learning for All'. The approach is threefold:

1. to prioritise quality basic education for all;
2. to support improving the effectiveness of the whole education sector; and
3. where appropriate, to invest in programmes that combine literacy with vocational training, or include a focus on the empowerment of marginalised groups.

An example of DFID's work in this area is our support to the Mahila Samakhya (Women Together) in India, a government programme to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, including improving literacy and economic opportunities through better access to education. In Yemen, DFID, in participation with other donors, is also financing a substantial basic education programme which includes support to both primary and adult basic education.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent initiatives his Department has funded to improve child literacy in developing countries. [322583]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) approach to tackling child literacy is stated in the recently launched Education Strategy, 'Learning for All.' The strategy has been placed in the Library of the House and can be found at:

www.dfid.gov.uk/educationstrategy

Examples of the work DFID is doing to improve child literacy in developing countries includes funding a four year initiative in Tanzania to improve competencies in literacy and numeracy among children aged five to 16 years. The programme will also be conducted in Uganda and Kenya.

Earthquakes: Oxfam

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with representatives of Oxfam on the earthquakes in *(a)* Chile and *(b)* Haiti. [322606]

Mr. Michael Foster: Representatives of Oxfam were present at two recent meetings I have had with British relief agencies to discuss the humanitarian response to the earthquake in Haiti.

Fairtrade Initiative

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent promoting Fair Trade fortnight. [322582]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) did not spend anything promoting Fairtrade Fortnight. DFID's contribution was that DFID

Ministers and officials took part in a number of events and awareness-raising efforts during Fairtrade Fortnight.

Haiti: Earthquakes

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has given to survivors of the recent earthquake in Haiti. [322625]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has committed £20 million to support the humanitarian relief effort in Haiti. The funding has helped provide an estimated 380,000 people with water, shelter, food and medical care. In addition, relief items delivered by DFID will serve approximately 20,000 families.

International Red Cross

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has had recent discussions with the Red Cross on its projects which are in receipt of funding from his Department. [322612]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Secretary of State for International Development met with Jakob Kellenberger, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), during the World Economic Forum conference in January. They discussed progress in Haiti following the earthquake and also the situations in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Department for International Development (DFID) provides funding to ICRC, the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) and the British Red Cross. DFID officials are in regular contact with all three organisations.

Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people have sent an e-card under his Department's Be part of the LIFT initiative. [322581]

Mr. Michael Foster: A total of 114 e-cards have been sent under the LIFT initiative since they were introduced on 11 February 2010.

Snow and Ice: Leave

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many members of his Department have taken authorised leave consequent on severe weather in 2010. [322614]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not maintain a central record of authorised leave. The requested information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage new entrants into agricultural careers. [322850]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA supports Fresh Start, an industry-led initiative to encourage and support new entrants into farming, including those involved in family succession, and to help established farmers think about how they can develop their business in the future in the light of CAP reform.

Fresh Start provides business skills training to people starting out in farming, delivered through a network of Fresh Start Academies. Fresh Start is also working on providing a mentoring service for new farmers as well as a matching service linking potential new starters with existing farmers who are retiring or restructuring.

The Fresh Start Initiative only operates within England.

Animal Welfare Act 2006

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what education and training resources his Department has made available to local authorities to assist in the implementation of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. [322519]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA provided a number of training sessions for local authority and animal health officers before the Act came into force in order that they could familiarise themselves with the new legislation.

Batteries: Recycling

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps he has taken to increase the proportion of batteries which are recycled. [322544]

Ian Lucas: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 327W, in respect of steps taken to increase the recycling of waste industrial and automotive batteries.

The Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009, referred to in that answer, also contain provisions relating to the collection, treatment and recycling of waste portable batteries. From 1 January 2010, large producers of portable batteries have had responsibility for financing the net cost of the separate collection, treatment and recycling of waste portable batteries that arise in the UK. Such producers must join Battery Compliance Schemes (BCSs), which discharge their members' obligations by entering into collection arrangements with distributors/retailers and other economic operators, and finance information campaigns to raise awareness. The Government have also carried out a range of communication activities to raise awareness among consumers and businesses of the new ways to recycle waste portable batteries.

From 1 February 2010, certain distributors/retailers of portable batteries have been required to make available collection points on their premises where end-users may discard waste portable batteries. The regulations set separate collection targets of 25 per cent. by 2012, increasing to 40 per cent. by 2016, of waste portable batteries arising in the UK.

Biomass: Air Pollution

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on the environment of emissions of *(a)* black carbon, *(b)* particulates, *(c)* methane and *(d)* oxides of nitrogen arising from combustion of B30K biomass in domestic boilers. [322858]

Jim Fitzpatrick: B30K is a biofuel/kerosene blended fuel that could be used for domestic heating to help reduce the use of fossil fuels. We understand that the oil industry is conducting trials on the practicality of use of this fuel. However, DEFRA currently holds no information on emissions of air quality pollutants from this fuel.

Birds: Disease Control

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to reduce the incidence of avian diseases. [322512]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA plays a key part in working with industry to devise and implement policies to protect birds, and control avian diseases. Vigilance, good practice on the part of bird keepers and biosecurity are all vital in the fight against animal disease. The Department works in partnership with industry to raise awareness of and promote best practice in these areas.

Biosecurity measures are focused on animal owners working closely with their vet or other adviser to set targets for their animals' health and welfare, and take steps to measure, manage and monitor productivity.

DEFRA monitors the international disease situation and assesses its impact on the risk to the UK. It carries out risk-based post import testing to help mitigate the risk of disease entering the country, and to focus on its early detection to prevent spread. In the international context, the Department supports proportionate safeguard measures which mitigate the risk of spread of animal disease into and around the EU.

DEFRA also implements appropriate strategies for surveillance for avian diseases in the UK. These are often part of European initiatives carried out across member states.

Encouraging and incentivising bird keepers to implement good biosecurity on the ground is also being taken forward with industry as part of the Responsibility and Cost Sharing programme of work.

Cattle: Disease Control

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of diseases in cattle. [322592]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The health of cattle is central to DEFRA's work in protecting livestock, and in controlling and eradicating disease.

The Government take bovine TB very seriously and are fully committed to tackling the disease. We have a package of measures in place to reduce further spread and incidence of bovine TB including regular testing, zero tolerance of overdue tests, pre-movement and extended use of gamma interferon. In November 2009 the EU Commission formally agreed to the UK's Eradication Plan and to provide funding of up to €10 million for 2010, which can be claimed to reimburse costs of TB testing and compensation for cattle slaughtered. The funding will be shared between DEFRA and the Welsh and Northern Irish administrations.

We are continuing to make significant investment in vaccines. £20 million will be spent over the next three years on vaccine development. A Badger Vaccine Deployment Project will take place in six high incidence areas each of 100km^2 (25,000 acres) in England, with vaccination starting in this summer 2010.

Vigilance, good stockmanship and biosecurity are all vital in the fight against animal disease and DEFRA works in partnership with industry to raise awareness of and promote best practice in these areas.

Through DEFRA's Livestock Market Roadshows, key issues focus on Biosecurity measures and Bluetongue. This initiative is about livestock owners working closely with their vet or other adviser on setting targets for their animals' health and welfare and taking steps to measure, manage and monitor productivity.

DEFRA monitors the international disease situation and assesses its impact on the risk to the UK and carries out risk based post import testing to help prevent disease entering the country spreading.

Encouraging and incentivising livestock keepers to implement good biosecurity on the ground is also being taken forward with industry as part of the Responsibility and Cost sharing programme of work.

DEFRA provides a subsidised livestock disease diagnosis and investigation service to farmers through the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA). Analysis of the disease information gathered by the VLA feeds into national disease surveillance which identifies and assesses new disease threats, and provides advice on their management.

Cattle: Diseases

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for which diseases contracted by cattle there is a requirement that the animals be culled. [322727]

Jim Fitzpatrick: When cattle are confirmed to have contracted the following diseases the Secretary of State will order slaughter of the infected cattle, (but there are a few limited exceptions where he can exercise his discretion to spare certain cattle):

bovine tuberculosis;

contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia;

bovine spongiform encephalopathy;

brucellosis;

enzootic bovine leukosis;

foot and mouth disease;

lumpy skin disease;

rinderpest (otherwise known as cattle plague), and;

Rift Valley fever.

In the case of Bluetongue the chief veterinary officer is likely only to order slaughter of infected cattle (in particular if they have been imported) in the early stages of the outbreak. Otherwise the CVO will consider all relevant epidemiological circumstances and carry out benefits and risk analysis before deciding whether other control measures would be more appropriate.

Cetaceans: Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps his Department is taking against fishing vessels that do not comply with the provisions of the Incidental Catches of Cetaceans in Fisheries (England) Order 2005; [322471]

(2) how many fishing vessels of 12 metres or more in length are using gillnets or entangling nets in compliance with S.I. 2005, No. 17; and what steps his Department is taking to increase the level of compliance of such vessels. [322472]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK is committed to enforcing all aspects of Council Regulation 812/2004 and the provisions of S.I. 2005, No. 17 in order to minimise cetacean by-catch.

The Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) monitors compliance through the inspection activities of the Royal Navy Fishery Protection Squadron. In addition, the MFA conducts training courses for the Fisheries Protection Squadron who undertake boarding at sea. This has led to increased industry awareness of cetacean by-catch issues.

The use of acoustic deterrent devices, as specified under Council Regulation 812/2004, has been problematic for all member states. DEFRA funded research, undertaken by the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) in partnership with the fishing industry, has identified significant problems with the acoustic deterrents stipulated in regulation 812 in terms of safety of use and their effectiveness as deterrents.

We reported these concerns to the European Commission and have commissioned an extensive research programme to develop effective deterrents that are safe for our fishers to use. As part of this research, SMRU are currently testing a new, more robust and powerful device. We eagerly await the report of this research, due in April next year.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what research his Department is undertaking on risks posed by fisheries to porpoises and dolphins in UK waters; [322473]

(2) whether his Department is funding research into possible methods of mitigating cetacean bycatch; [322474]

(3) whether his Department is funding research into alternative fishing technology with the aim of eliminating cetacean bycatch. [322475]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK constantly assesses the risks posed to cetaceans from fisheries through our monitoring programme onboard fishing vessels, undertaken by the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU). We have used this project to identify which fisheries areas pose the greatest risk, and have moved the focus of our monitoring in order to investigate those fisheries of greatest concern.

The UK is committed to avoiding the by-catch of cetaceans wherever possible; we have, in total, spent over £2 million to date since 2000 on a range of measures to understand better, and so reduce, the incidental by-catch of cetaceans.

As part of a five-year research contract between SMRU and DEFRA that ended in 2008, research was conducted into modifications to fishing gear to reduce the by-catch of small cetaceans. This research produced inconclusive results and highlighted the need for more effective deterrents to prevent capture.

The focus of our current research and monitoring is to identify those fisheries responsible for high levels of cetacean by-catch and to test acoustic deterrents that are effective at preventing cetacean bycatch in these fisheries.

SMRU are extensively testing, on behalf of DEFRA, a new, more powerful acoustic deterrent device that we believe will address the problems of safety and effectiveness encountered with other acoustic deterrent devices, and significantly reduce the number of cetaceans caught in fishing gear.

We are committed to finding an acoustic deterrent that is both safe for fishers to use, and effective at deterring cetaceans from fishing gear, and we eagerly await the results of this research, due in April next year.

The annual reports the UK submits to the European Commission under Council Regulation 812/2004 supply more detail on all of this work and can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/fisheries/marine/conservation/cetaceans.htm#1

Dairy Products: Meat

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the UK's consumption of *(a)* liquid milk and dairy products and *(b)* beef and beef products was met by imports in the latest period for which figures are available. [322495]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 16 March 2010]*: The following tables show imports as a percentage of total new supply[1] for raw liquid milk for processing, main dairy products and beef and beef products in 2008.

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[1] Total new supply is used as a proxy for consumption where total new supply is production in the UK, minus exports, plus imports. To note: some of this new supply will be processed further and exported (so not consumed in the UK). However, this presents a good assessment of imports in relation to UK consumption.

	Million litres	*Thousand tonnes*	*Percentage*
Raw liquid milk for processing			
Total new supply (production+imports-exports)	12,816	—	—
Total imports (all imports across the Irish border)	49	—	—
Imports as percentage of supply	—	—	0.4

	Million litres	*Thousand tonnes*	*Percentage*
Butter[1]			
Total new supply (production+imports-exports)	—	169	—
Total imports	—	81	—
Imports as percentage of supply	—	—	[illegible]
Cheese			
Total new supply (production+imports-exports)	—	720	—
Total imports	—	422	—
Imports as percentage of supply	—	—	59
Cream			
Total new supply (production+imports-exports)	—	247	—
Total imports	—	55	—
Imports as percentage of supply	—	—	22
Condensed milk[2]			
Total new supply (production+imports-exports)	—	146	—
Total imports	—	39	—
Imports as percentage of supply	—	—	27

[1] Includes butterfat and oil, dehydrated butter and ghee.

[2] Includes condensed milk used in the production of chocolate crumb and in the production of sweetened and unsweetened machine skimmed milk.

Source:

HM Revenue and Customs, DEFRA, RERAD and DARDNI.

	Thousand tonnes	*Percentage*
Beef and beef products (carcase weight equivalent)		
Total new supply for human consumption	1,134	—
Total imports	373	—
Imports as percentage of supply	—	33

Source:

Eurostat supply balance sheet for meat.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many designs for its *(a)* internal website and *(b)* intranet his Department has commissioned since 2005; and what the cost was of each such design. [321989]

Dan Norris: The requested information is in the following table.

	Designs commissioned since 2005	*Cost (£)*	*Comments*
Internet	1	181,378	The external costs for this work include audience research, web structure analysis, design templates and accessibility auditing. The redesigned site went live on 17 September 2009.
Intranet	1	63,654	The external costs for this work include audience research, web structure analysis and design templates. The redesigned site is due to go live on 22 March 2010.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 163W, on the departmental intranet, what the cost was of the website redesign in 2009. [322280]

Dan Norris: The DEFRA website has undergone a single redesign since the creation of the Department in 2001. This went live on 17 September 2009 and cost £181,378 (for audience research, web structure analysis, design and accessibility auditing).

Dogs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number of pit bull terrier type dogs in *(a)* London and *(b)* England. [322528]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Pit bull terrier type dogs are prohibited in England with ownership of pit bull terrier type dogs allowed only under strict conditions, where a court has allowed a prohibited type of dog to be registered on the Index of Exempted Dogs under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (as amended 1997). We have made no estimate of illegally owned pit bull terrier numbers. However, the number of live legally owned pit bull terrier type dogs that are registered on the Index of Exempted Dogs in *(a)* London is 462, and *(b)* in England (including London) is 800.

Environment Protection: Powers of Entry

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department sought the views of the Home Office in respect of the new powers of entry provision contained in the Environmental Civil Sanctions (England) Order 2010; and whether a liberty test was applied when assessing the merits of such powers of entry in respect of *(a)* Natural England and *(b)* the Environment Agency. [322666]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 16 March 2010]*: DEFRA consulted the Home Office in respect of the power of entry contained in the Environmental Civil Sanctions (England) Order 2010, as required under guidance to Departments. The power is for Natural England only, sufficient to allow the regulator to ascertain whether the enforcement notices or undertakings available under the order have been fulfilled. As regards the "liberty test", all powers of entry are enacted through legislation and are subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

Horses: Disease Control

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of equine diseases. [322593]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The health and welfare of horses is of particular importance as the equine industry is a sizeable and significant component of the national, especially rural, economy and community. DEFRA plays a key part in working with the industry to devise and implement policies to protect all equines, and to control equine exotic diseases. Vigilance and good practice on the part of horse owners/keepers and biosecurity are all vital in the fight against animal disease and DEFRA works in partnership with industry to raise awareness of and promote best practice in these areas.

DEFRA monitors the international disease situation and assesses its impact on the risk to the UK, and carries out risk based post-import testing to help mitigate the risk of disease entering the country and to focus on its early detection to prevent spread. In the international context, DEFRA supports proportionate safeguard measures which mitigate the risk of spread of animal disease into and around the EU.

DEFRA is also working towards implementing appropriate strategies for surveillance for equine diseases in the UK. These are often part of European initiatives carried out across member states. For example, although the likelihood of introduction of African Horse Sickness virus from abroad to the UK via legal trade in horses and other equidae is considered very low, ongoing work to increase national preparedness for an outbreak of that disease, should it occur, is well under way through work on a control strategy for the disease, with a view to legislation coming into force this summer. This work has also strengthened other elements of preparedness for equine diseases more generally, for example, by increasing and deepening joint working between the sector and Government, and putting in place stronger stakeholder engagement mechanisms.

In addition, encouraging and incentivising horse owners/keepers to implement good biosecurity on the ground is also being taken forward with industry as part of the Responsibility and Cost Sharing programme of work.

Livestock

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect on the UK's *(a)* food security and *(b)* environment of (i) decoupling and (ii) reduction in livestock numbers. [322852]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A market-driven and consumer focused agricultural sector is crucial for European and global food security. Removing the distortive link between direct payments and production allows farmers to respond more readily to market requirements and should therefore have a positive effect on food security.

Production data shows that while livestock numbers have fallen slightly in recent years, with decoupling of the common agricultural policy (CAP) support being a factor in this decline, both the value and volume of meat production has increased through higher yields. The effect of declining animal numbers on production will be partly offset by increases in productivity, such as higher milk yields and lower mortality. Together with productivity changes, market demand by domestic and overseas consumers will be a major contributor to the overall size of UK livestock herds.

The extent to which decoupling has led to a reduction in stocking densities has led to certain environmental outcomes, including an overall reduction in environmental pressures (such as overgrazing). There are already rural development programmes within pillar II of the CAP which are specifically designed to encourage farmers to adopt environmentally beneficial land management practices, and there are early signs that progress is being made in this area. Such targeted programmes need to be continued and strengthened with reform.

Nature Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who from his Department will be representing the Government at the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in Doha; and if he will make a statement. [322456]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA and its agency, Animal Health, jointly act as the Management Authority for the Conference of the Parties to the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna (CITES) in the UK. Three policy officials are representing DEFRA at the conference with two officials from Animal Health's Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service. Representatives from our designated CITES scientific authorities and our enforcement authorities are also attending.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of globally threatened species present in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the UK Overseas Territories. [322611]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species 2009, the latest figures we have for threatened species in the UK and the UK Overseas Territories are publicly available on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee website at: www.jncc.gov.uk. Full website address:

www.jncc.gov.uk/pdf/UKOT_IUCN%20Tables_%202009.pdf

Noise

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to tackle noise nuisance. [322445]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government recognise that the management of noise nuisance requires a co-ordinated and long term approach that embraces various aspects of modern society. This is why DEFRA published the Noise Policy Statement for England this week, setting out the long-term vision of government noise policy, promoting good health and good quality of life through the management of noise, within the context of government policy on sustainable development.

The application of the policy statement should mean that noise is properly taken into account at the appropriate time and reinforces the raft of legislation that already exists that gives powers to local authorities to deal with noise complaints.

Pet Travel Scheme

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on its Pet Passport scheme in each of the last five years. [322542]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Animal Health (AH), which administers the pet travel scheme, does not collect specific financial information on the scheme's operation. This is because its officers are allocated to deal with all imports and not just those of pet animals. However, an estimate based on information available indicates that the cost to AH for one year's operation of the scheme is £987,187. Costs have remained broadly stable over the last five years.

This is based on information from the main UK ports and airports (Heathrow, Manchester, Dover, Harwich, Portsmouth, Southampton) and from the specialist service centre for imports in Chelmsford. It includes costs for around 60,000 pet passports per year and for the Pets Helpline which fields 850 calls per week, as well as enforcement, auditing activity and carrier approvals.

Reptiles: Smuggling

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has evidence that the 2007 ban on importation of wild birds into the EU has had an effect on the number of reptiles imported into the EU. [322455]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We are aware of reports that the number of reptiles being imported into the EU has increased since 2007, but we do not have access to EU-wide statistics to substantiate these reports.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many reptiles have been imported into the UK in total from *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the European Union in each year since 2000. [322476]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) database, which holds information on imports into the UK, does not distinguish between species listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and species not so listed.

The information available regarding numbers of reptiles is as follows:

Table 1 shows figures, supplied by the Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service in Animal Health (which issues CITES permits), for imports of live CITES-listed reptiles from non-EU countries.

Table 2 shows all reptiles imported into the UK from within the EU as recorded on TRACES, which does not distinguish between CITES-listed and non-listed species. Movement of specimens within the EU does not require CITES permits to be issued, therefore no figures for this are kept by the Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service.

Table 3 shows all reptile species imported into the UK from outside the EU as recorded on TRACES.

Table 1: Imports of reptiles into the UK from non-EU countries

	Quantity
2000	8,161
2001	8,477
2002	8,200
2003	14,538
2004	12,889
2005	14,880
2006	25,954
2007	31,155
2008	35,411
2009	32,043
2010	—
Total	191,708

CITES species listed on Appendix III do not require CITES permits to be issued to enable their import to take place. They do however require import notifications to be made.

Table 1A following shows details of reptiles imports for which Import Notifications were issued (for imports into the UK from non-EU countries).

Table 1A

	Quantity
2000	6,610
2001	660
2002	1,949
2003	231
2004	74
2005	1,273
2006	252
2007	130
2008	286
2009	235
2010	—
Total	11,700

Table 2: Reptiles recorded on TRACES as having been imported into the UK from within the EU

	Number
2004	100
2005	2,007
2006	1,470
2007	520
2008	1,822
2009	2,042
2010 (1 January 2010 to 15 March 2010)	107
Total	8,068

Table 3: Reptiles recorded on TRACES as having been imported into the UK from outside the EU

	Number
2004	132,385
2005	228,884
2006	295,229
2007	469,669
2008	381,376
2009	295,607
2010 (1 January 2010 to 15 March 2010)	38,048
Total	1,841,198

[1] Figures not yet available.

Notes:

1. Some figures provided in table 3 will be for CITES-listed species, and may therefore be duplicated in table 1.
2. The TRACES system was not in operation prior to 2004.
3. The figures recorded on TRACES for EU reptile imports are not a complete record of imports. There are no animal health restrictions or conditions for such movements and therefore, not all imports would be logged onto TRACES.

Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the guidelines for the selection of marine protection areas to be published; and if he will make a statement. [322441]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The guidance for the selection and designation of Marine Conservation Zones under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, has been published in draft form on the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/marine/documents/guidance-note1.pdf

This guidance is currently one of four DEFRA guidance notes, all of which are being finalised at present. These will form part of a suite of documents to published in relation to the Act. The final guidance is expected to be published this spring.

The ministerial statement to fulfil section 123(6) of the Act was laid before Parliament on 11 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 26-27WS, and will shortly be published on the DEFRA website. The Marine Protected Area Strategy was published in draft form last year, and the finalised version is planned to be issued before Easter.

Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee have published their draft of the 'Ecological Network Guidance to regional stakeholder groups on identifying Marine Conservation Zones' on their website, and invite comments on it by 9 April 2010.

Sheep: Tagging

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of progress in the implementation in the UK of measures for the electronic tagging of sheep. [322851]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Electronic identification (EID) of sheep is an EU requirement, but the administration and implementation of it is an issue for devolved Administrations.

In England, EID was implemented on 31 December 2009. It is too early for any implementation assessment to be made although our officials are in regular contact with the sheep industry and are reviewing issues with them as they arise.

Total Allowable Catches

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the meeting of the EU Fisheries Council, December 2009, when he expects to convene a meeting to consider the Common Fisheries Policy on Area 7 nephrops total allowable catch quota. [322849]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Scientists from the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute of Northern Ireland (AFBI), the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) and Marine Scotland Science (MSS) are meeting in Belfast to discuss the management of Area 7 nephrops this month. I will consider the next steps in relation to the future management of the stock once the conclusions of that meeting are known.

JUSTICE

Arrest Warrants: War Crimes

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations have been sent copies of his Department's Better Trials Unit's consultation note, Arrest warrants - universal jurisdiction; [322816]

(2) for what reasons the consultation on Arrest warrants - universal jurisdiction is not listed on his Department's website; [322817]

(3) what steps his Department has taken to include countries whose citizens are at risk of arrest for war crimes in his Department's consultation on Arrest warrants - universal jurisdiction. [322818]

Claire Ward: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor wrote on 6 March to the Chairman of the Justice Select Committee, inviting the Committee to consider proposals that were set out in a short paper, 'Arrest warrants – universal jurisdiction'. The Chairman replied on 10 March with the suggestion that the Government should first seek views from appropriate sources directly, which the Committee would then consider.

Copies of the paper have now been sent to interested parties, including the Lord Chief Justice, the Senior Presiding Judge, the Senior District Judge (Chief Magistrate), the Justices' Clerks' Society, the Criminal Bar Association, the Law Society, Liberty, *JUSTICE*, and Amnesty International. It has also been placed on the Ministry of Justice website. We have not sought the views of foreign Governments, but will take note of any that may be offered.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to deter theft from within the Department. [322652]

Mr. Wills: The Department applies a regime of protective security in accordance with the Government's Security Policy Framework. Measures to protect assets and deter theft involve access controls, including perimeter security, guarding, alarms, CCTV and pass wearing; provision of secure storage to lock valuable assets away, and personnel checks to ensure trustworthiness of those given unsupervised access to sites and assets. These are supplemented in prisons by local searching strategies and daily checks on store areas. We have a security breach policy which is linked to our conduct and discipline policies. Our programme of action to improve the security of information assets, flowing from the Data Handling Review, includes training and awareness which covers the value of assets, awareness of risk and the need for protection.

Juries: Disabled People

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether support is available to enable people with learning disabilities to serve on juries. [321971]

Mr. Straw: Support is available from both the Jury Central Summoning Bureau (JCSB) and the courts to enable people with learning disabilities to serve on juries.

All potential jurors must complete their reply to their jury summons and return it to the JCSB with the help from a friend or family member, if necessary. Part 4 of the summons asks jurors ,to identify any disabilities and special needs. On receipt of the completed summons, the JCSB will contact the relevant court with details of the information received from the juror to highlight any special arrangements for the court to put in place.

Jurors are encouraged to contact the JCSB to arrange a pre-court visit to view facilities at court and discuss any special arrangements needed. For example, courts can assist the juror with reading and completing jury forms while at court and the juror is given the option of repeating the oath after the usher rather than having to read it themselves.

However, if the juror requires a note taker or interpretation assistance in the jury room this will exclude them from jury service. Under the common law, a jury must conduct its deliberations and reach its decision in the privacy of its own room and this usually necessitates that no one else is present.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on summoning people with learning disabilities to jury service. [321972]

Mr. Straw: A person should only be required to serve on a jury where he or she is mentally capable of doing so satisfactorily. To that end, the Juries Act 1974 (as amended) disqualifies a person from serving if he or she:

> suffers or has suffered from mental disorder within the meaning of the Mental Health Act 1983 and on account of that condition either is resident in a hospital or similar institution or regularly attends for treatment by a medical practitioner; or
>
> is subject to guardianship or a community treatment order under the Mental Health Act 1983; or
>
> lacks capacity within the meaning of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to perform jury service.

This provision encompasses some people with learning disabilities. For other people with learning disabilities our policy is that support should be made available where possible to enable them to serve satisfactorily.

Prison Service: Procurement

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the £37.5 million potential savings in procurement activity identified by the National Audit Office in its report on The procurement of goods and services by HM Prison Service, HC 943, Session 2007-08, have been realised. [322220]

Maria Eagle: The National Audit Office (NAO) report on the procurement of goods and services by HM Prison Service confirmed that the Prison Service had estimated that savings of £37.5 million would be delivered in 2007-08. The figure was estimated because the review was undertaken part way through the financial year in question and the figure available at the time was a combination of realised and forecast savings. The NAO conducted a follow up review in December 2008 and confirmed that the revised value of savings was £36,793,305. This was fully delivered within financial year 2007-08.

Prisoner Escapes

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* category A prisoners and *(b)* prisoners categorised as at risk of attempting to escape held at HM Prison Brixton were moved prior to a security audit or inspection in each of the last five years. [301231]

Maria Eagle: Brixton has not held any Category A prisoners in the last five years. As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) said in his written ministerial statement on 11 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 30-32WS, on prison transfers prior to HMCDP Inspections, three prisoners were transferred from Brixton to High Down and Wandsworth prior to the April 2008 investigation and returned after the inspection. A further prisoner was transferred to Wandsworth but did not return to Brixton. Another prisoner was discharged to court from Brixton prior to the inspection and was transferred to Chelmsford prison from court. Each of these five prisoners was individually assessed as a potential escape risk (E-list).

My right hon. Friend's statement also set out the outcome of the investigation into the three transfers where the prisoners returned to Brixton.

Prisons: Mobile Phones

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has made an assessment of the effectiveness of security procedures at prisons in preventing mobile telephones being smuggled in for inmates; and if he will make a statement. [322438]

Maria Eagle: Smuggling mobile phones, as with other contraband, is by its nature a covert activity and the effectiveness of preventative measures is therefore difficult to quantify.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is determined to address the risks that mobile phones present to security and to the safety of the public. It has implemented a strategy to minimise, find and disrupt mobile phones in prisons.

The strategy follows the review carried out by David Blakey CBE QPM DL, formerly Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary and chief constable of West Mercia, to review the effectiveness of the Prison Service's measures for disrupting the supply of illicit drugs in prisons. The review acknowledged the link between the availability of phones in prisons and the smuggling of illicit drugs.

NOMS has made good progress in implementing the recommendations which address illicit mobile phones, including:

publishing a guide to assist prisons in tackling mobile phones.

progressing work on mobile phone signal denial in prisons; and

providing all prisons with a Body Orifice Security Scanner and hand held metal detectors, which can detect mobile phones, even those stored internally.

NOMS is undertaking an evaluation of the technology being used to detect mobile phones.

Royal Household

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 383W, on the Royal Household, if he will request the Royal Collection to publish an inventory of other uniforms, decorations or related artifacts in its custody relating to *(a)* HM King Edward VIII or any of his predecessors and *(b)* foreign monarchs prior to 1937 in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [322626]

Mr. Wills: The Royal Collection has indicated that they will research what information is available in this area and write to my hon. Friend in due course. My hon. Friend may also wish to read "Royal Insignia: British and Foreign Orders of Chivalry from the Royal Collection" by Stephen Patterson.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 383W, on the Royal Household, if he will request the Royal Collection to *(a)* host an exhibition of uniforms, decorations or related artifacts in its custody, relating to (i) HM King Edward VIII or any of his predecessors and (ii) foreign monarchs prior to 1937 and *(b)* make these available for display to (A) the Imperial War Museum, (B) the National Army Museum and *(c)* other comparable museums; and if he will make a statement. [322627]

Mr. Wills: The Royal Collection regularly receives requests from museums and galleries around the United Kingdom and abroad for long and short-term loans, many of which are granted. Over 3,000 objects are presently on long-term loan. There are, however, no current plans to exhibit or loan the artefacts in question.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

BAE Systems

David Howarth: To ask the Solicitor-General whether any information obtained by the Serious Fraud Office during its investigations into BAE Systems has been passed to the relevant authorities in other jurisdictions; and if she will make a statement. [321329]

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Solicitor General whether the Serious Fraud Office has provided assistance to overseas investigations into the affairs of BAE Systems as they relate to the al-Yamamah defence contract with the Government of Saudi Arabia. [318078]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office has provided assistance to overseas investigations while ensuring the UK national security interests are protected.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* disciplinary and *(b)* capability procedures have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed in the Law Officers' Departments in each of the last five years; how much time on average was taken to complete each type of procedure in each such year; how many and what proportion of staff of the Law Officers' Department were subject to each type of procedure in each such year; and how many and what proportion of each type of procedure resulted in the dismissal of the member of staff. [320627]

The Solicitor-General: No member of HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate, National Fraud Authority or the Attorney-General's Office has been subject to formal discipline in the past five years.

In respect of the Serious Fraud Office and Treasury Solicitors there have been fewer than five dismissals in any single year during this period, and this information is therefore suppressed on the grounds of confidentiality.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and Revenue and Customs Prosecution Service (RCPO) have not maintained records in relation to average time taken to complete each procedure. Records are only available from 2007.

Table 1 shows *(a)* the number of formal disciplinary actions (i) initiated and (ii) completed in each of the relevant years, the proportion of staff subject to the procedures, and the number of resulting dismissals on disciplinary grounds. Table 2 shows the number of *(b)* formal capability procedures (i) initiated and (ii) completed in each of the relevant years, the proportion of staff subject to the procedures, and the number of resulting dismissals on disciplinary grounds.

Table 1: Disciplinary cases—CPS and RCPO combined

	Number and percentage of formal disciplinary actions initiated within the CPS and RCPO		*Number and percentage of formal disciplinary actions completed within the CPS and RCPO*		*How many and what proportions of procedure resulted in dismissal within the CPS and RCPO*	
	Number	*Percentage staff*	*Number*	*Percentage staff*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2007	56	0.6	56	0.6	5	8.92
2008	56	0.63	56	0.63	4	7.14
2009	38	0.41	36	0.39	5	13.16

Table 2: Capability cases—CPS and RCPO combined[1]

	Number and percentage of formal capability (performance) actions initiated within the CPS and RCPO		*Number and percentage of formal capability (performance) actions completed within the CPS and RCPO*		*How many and what proportions of procedure resulted in dismissal within the CPS and RCPO*	
	Number	*Percentage staff*	*Number*	*Percentage staff*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2008	12	0.13	10	0.11	2	18.2
2009	11	0.12	11	0.12	2	18.18

[1] In 2007 there were fewer than five cases so information has not been provided so as to protect staff confidentiality.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Solicitor-General what steps each Law Officers' Department is taking to deter theft from within it. [322661]

The Solicitor-General: All of the Law Officers' Departments have extensive security measures in place to prevent theft and security within their organisations. Specific security policies are as outlined:

Attorney General's Office

Physical security measures are in place to protect against unauthorised access to the building, and all visitors are escorted by a permanent member of staff while on the premises. The building is guarded 24 hours a day and we have provided lockable cabinets to all staff to secure valuables and papers.

The Serious Fraud Office

Security procedures are in place to deter and protect against theft. These measures include lockable pedestals, a clear desk policy, locked safes, secure access controlled rooms, 24 hour guarding and CCTV to assist with prevention, detection and response.

The National Fraud Authority (NFA)

NFA internal control of its finances, people and organisation, includes the vetting of potential staff as part of its recruitment process. NFA also ensures all relevant policies are fully publicised so that staff are kept aware of their responsibilities and duties in respect of security issues.

The agency's arrangements to deter and detect internal theft are overseen by its head of finance and internal and external auditors, and a disciplinary framework exists to deal with any malpractice or criminal offence.

Security procedures are in place to deter and protect against theft. These measures include, secure access, twenty four hour guarding and CCTV.

The Crown Prosecution Service

Deters theft by maintaining strong internal controls, which include a policy on fraud, a code of conduct for staff and training on all aspects of security including physical security and theft prevention. In addition all office buildings are secure and visitors and contractors are supervised on site. Contracted staff must all pass the appropriate security vetting regime.

Treasury Solicitors (TSol)

TSol has perimeter security at the entrance points to the building. All doors to the floors occupied by TSol are fitted with a card access system to prevent unauthorised access. All visitors are required to sign in at the main reception and wear visitor passes. Visitors are escorted to and from reception.

Induction briefings covering security issues are also mandatory for all new starters, including staff contractors, consultants and temporary staff. In addition TSol operates a clear desk policy, which ensures all cabinets are securely locked at the end of the working day.

HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI)

Both office sites are secure buildings with appropriate precautions to minimise the risk of theft by contractors or other visitors. These include perimeter security at the entrance points to the building, card access systems, a clear desk policy and staff awareness training.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Committees

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State's contribution to the Fifth Delegated Legislation Committee on 9 March 2010 and paragraph 7.2 of the explanatory memorandum to the draft Extradition Act 2003 (Amendment to Designations) Order 2010, what the administrative oversight in respect of the exchange of instruments of ratification was; who should have informed his Department that the instruments of ratification had been exchanged; when the oversight was discovered; and for what reasons this information was not provided to the Committee by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State. [322043]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 16 March 2010]:* As I have said the Government regret the delay in laying the order designating Libya as an extradition partner under the Extradition Act 2003 and that Parliament was not afforded the opportunity to discuss the matter at an earlier date. More than one Government Department is involved in the treaty process and unfortunately, on this occasion, the usual contact between the Home Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office did not take place leading to a delay in notification that the ratification procedures were complete. The oversight was discovered in January 2010 and arrangements were made immediately for the order to be drafted and considered by Parliament at the earliest opportunity.

Fraud

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of offences related to *(a)* credit card and *(b)* mortgage fraud affecting residents in Leeds North West constituency were reported in each of the last five years. [322706]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available in that form from the police recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office. It is not possible to separately identify credit card and mortgage fraud from other offences within the Fraud and Forgery offence group.

The measurement of fraud is challenging as it is known to be very substantially under-reported to the police. Financial institutions will encourage customers (both personal and business) to report cheque, plastic card or online bank account fraud directly to them and not the police in the first instance. Fraud reported to financial institutions will then only be reported to the police if they are satisfied that there is a reasonable chance of a suspect being brought to justice through police investigation.

In addition to the fraud and forgery offences which are recorded by the police, the Home Office publishes information on plastic card offences identified by the UK Card Association along with findings from the British Crime Survey (BCS). The BCS provides a measure of plastic card fraud among adult residents in households which is important because it captures data on incidents which are not reported to the police. However, neither of these sources have data at borough level.

Further information is contained in Chapter 4 of 'Crime in England and Wales 2008/09', a copy of which is available in the Library.

Immigrants: Detainees

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children of each age group from each country have been held in immigration *(a)* detention and *(b)* removal centres at each location prior to deportation in each year since 1997. [319527]

Alan Johnson: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only by checking individual records over the period requested at a disproportionate cost.

National Statistics on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly. The information is published in Tables 9-11 of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom bulletins which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Motor Vehicles: Seized Articles

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cars were seized in the Merseyside Police Authority area for *(a)* crushing and *(b)* disposal by other means in each of the last five years. [322629]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This information is not held centrally. The police can seize and remove vehicles in certain circumstances. Any vehicle so seized can be reclaimed on payment of charges and on satisfaction of any other prescribed requirements. If a vehicle is not reclaimed, the police may dispose of it as they consider appropriate.

Police: Equality

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the proportion of police officer time spent on equality and diversity training in each year since 1997. [320550]

Alan Johnson: Equality and diversity is embedded throughout all police training courses. Information is not held centrally on classroom based training attended by police officers, as it is the responsibility of individual police forces.

TREASURY

Carbon Emissions: EU Action

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's policy is on proposals for an EU-wide minimum tax on carbon. [322509]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There is currently no EU Commission proposal for an EU-wide minimum tax on carbon.

Corporation Tax

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of companies owing unpaid corporation tax of *(a)* less than £10,000, *(b)* between £10,001 and £25,000, *(c)* between £25,001 and £50,000, *(d)* between £50,001 and £100,000 and *(e)* more than £100,000 in each region in each of the last five years; and how much in total was owed in each such category; [322488]

(2) what estimate he has made of the amount of corporation tax owed to HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last five years. [322489]

Mr. Timms: The annual amount of corporation tax debt is shown in HMRC's annual accounts, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

The breakdowns of corporation tax debt by the number of companies, by size of debt, and by region would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Debt Collection

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many complaints have been made to the Financial Services Ombudsman by residents of *(a)*

Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency, *(b)* the Highlands, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* England and Wales regarding debt recovery agencies in each of the last five years; [315627]

(2) how many debt recovery agencies have been subject to financial penalties in *(a)* Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency, *(b)* the Highlands, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* England and Wales in each month since the introduction of the specific requirements clause of the Consumer Credit Act 2006. [315628]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

Complaints made to the financial service ombudsman by residents regarding debt recovery agencies is a matter for the financial ombudsman service and they will write to the hon. Member directly with the details.

The OFT has told us that since the introduction of its wider powers in April 2008, it has imposed requirements on six debt collection agencies whose conduct has caused it dissatisfaction. Requirements were imposed on one business in Scotland in April 2009. Four businesses based in England are subject to conduct requirements: these were imposed respectively in February 2009, May 2009 and, on two of the businesses, in June 2009. Requirements were imposed on the remaining business, which is based in the Philippines but collects debts from UK consumers, in November 2008.

The OFT does not have the power to impose an immediate financial penalty on licensed businesses where it is dissatisfied with the conduct of the business. However, if a trader fails to comply with a requirement, it could be subject to a penalty of up to £50,000 and/or revocation of its licence. As yet no financial penalties have been imposed, but OFT is monitoring compliance with the requirements imposed.

Departmental Legal Costs

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent in *(a)* legal fees and *(b)* compensation on legal cases concerning remuneration of its employees in each of the last 10 years. [322066]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested could not be obtained within the disproportionate costs threshold.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [322068]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The following items of HM Treasury property were reported lost or stolen during the 12 months ending December 2009:

Property lost or stolen in 2009

	Number
Lost	
BlackBerry mobile devices	3
Laptop USB tokens	4
Stolen	
BlackBerry mobile devices	2
Remote Access Unit	1
Laptop case	1
PC mouse	1
Filing cabinet key	1

The total cost of replacement is estimated at £2,100.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to deter theft from within the Department. [322656]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Guidance on taking precautions against theft is provided to staff on the Treasury intranet. Staff are reminded of the importance of locking away their valuables or departmental assets when they leave the office at the end of the day or while they are away from their desks for long periods of time. Reminders are issued periodically.

Furthermore the importance of all aspects of security is emphasised to new staff as part of the standard Treasury induction training.

EU External Trade: Israel

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the contribution by the Exchequer Secretary of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 319WH, on the EU-Israel trade agreement, what additional checks HM Revenue and Customs have undertaken on *(a)* known settlement producers and *(b)* imports of cosmetic products from Ahava. [322805]

Mr. Timms: To date, HM Revenue and Customs has considered imports of tahini and sweet peppers.

It has added sweet peppers to the series of targeted physical examinations which the United Kingdom Border Agency is undertaking in respect of imports of fresh produce from Israel.

It has not added tahini as the product attracts a nil rate of customs duty outside of the provisions of the EU-Israel Association Agreement and, consequently, there is no scope for abuse of the preferential trade arrangements.

HMRC has started to investigate exports made under the EU-Israel Agreement by the Settlements companies listed in the 2009 research paper prepared by the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies, which have economic links with the UK.

While for reasons of commercial confidentiality HMRC cannot disclose information in respect of enquiries into exports made by specific companies, it has undertaken further checks in respect of a range of cosmetic products imported under the EU-Israel Agreement over the last three years.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to paragraph 6.43 of HM Revenue and Customs 2008-09 Accounts, for what reasons items are placed in the suspense files; what the definition is of an item; what will be done with these items once the National Insurance and PAYE Service (NPS) is fully implemented; and what his estimate is of the number of items which will be added to suspense files each year once NPS is fully implemented. [316116]

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that information on national insurance contributions paid by employees submitted to HM Revenue and Customs by employers is sufficient to enable individual records to be updated; [318207]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to match the 116 million items from employers unmatched in 2007 to individual national insurance contributions accounts; what steps HM Revenue and Customs has taken to inform employees paying national insurance of the need to ensure accuracy of their account; what assessment he has made of the effects on employees of the volume of unmatched items; and what estimate he has made of the number of people who have paid national insurance contributions which have not been credited to their account by 2008-09. [318208]

Mr. Timms: Employers must provide HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) with information regarding the national insurance contributions of their employees during the year using the P35 and P45 forms when individuals enter and leave employment respectively, and for all employees at the end of the year using the P14 and P11D forms.

Through these processes HMRC may receive information on national insurance (NI) contributions that cannot be matched to the relevant employee record. This occurs when employers provide inaccurate or insufficient personal details about the relevant employee to enable the information to be matched with the appropriate national insurance account.

To help improve the quality of the information provided through these processes and to reduce the admin burden they place on employers, HMRC has introduced online filing for PAYE returns. All employers with 50 or more employees now file their in-year and end of year returns online; from April 2011 all employers will need to do so. Recent increases in online filing and the introduction of the new national insurance and PAYE Service has increased HMRC's ability to match the information it receives, and to identify where corrective action needs to be taken when this is not possible.

The National Insurance Contributions Office applies makes all reasonable efforts to match these items to contributor records, including writing to the employer and/or the employee for further information. Where items cannot be matched they are kept on non-matched suspense files until which time they can be matched to the correct national insurance account. HMRC estimate that around 85 per cent. of non-matching items are below the relevant earnings threshold, meaning that individually they cannot affect contributor benefits.

If a specific tax year is not qualifying for basic state retirement pension or bereavement benefit purposes HMRC will automatically write to the individual concerned to provide them with the opportunity to either query the details held on their NI account or pay voluntary contributions where appropriate. It is not possible to ascertain the number of individuals affected because several unmatched items may relate to one individual.

The number of items added to the suspense file has decreased year on year over he last four years. For 2007-08, the most recent tax year for which detailed information is held, some 1.9 million new items were added to the suspense file; this represents 3.3 per cent. of the year's returns.

HMRC expect that the number of items that cannot be initially matched to a national insurance account will continue to decrease as a result of the introduction of the national insurance and PAYE Service, which provides a single customer record for individual across HMRC.

HMRC is working with employers, pension providers and their representative bodies to identify the issues that cause incomplete or incorrect data and to understand better the implications of unaligned data. The Department is also working with large employer representatives on new employee education to be provided through the employer induction process. This is designed to improve the accuracy of the information coming through to HMRC when individuals start or leave employment, and will also help to reduce costs for employers and pension providers.

Places of Worship: Grants

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Church Commissioners on the extension of the Grant Funding for the Listed Places of Worship Scheme continuing beyond March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [322405]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Smuggling: Alcoholic Drinks

Paul Holmes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated monetary value of smuggled alcohol which was seized was in each year since 1997. [321891]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Data relating to the estimated value of smuggled alcohol seized by HMRC, and latterly the UK Border Agency (UKBA), are only available going back to 2003.

Estimates of the total value of beer, wine and spirits seizures i.e. the value of the goods and associated tax, in each year since 2003 are:

	Estimated value (£)
2003-04	14,068,459
2004-05	5,718,224
2005-06	3,160,457
2006-07	4,864,020
2007-08	5,108,224
2008-09	8,750,397
2009-10[1]	13,257,063

[1] For the period from 1 April 2009 to 28 February 2010

The increasing value of border seizures is explained largely by the establishment of the UKBA. This has significantly improved detection rates of smuggled alcohol - particularly of high-value spirits.

Taxation

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps HM Revenue and Customs is taking to ensure the accuracy of tax code notices to be issued in 2010-11; [322499]

(2) what steps HM Revenue and Customs takes to inform people of errors in their tax coding notices; [322500]

(3) how many people have notified HM Revenue and Customs of errors in tax coding notices in 2010; [322501]

(4) what estimate he has made of the number of incorrect tax coding notices issued by HM Revenue and Customs in 2010. [322502]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) takes every effort to ensure the accuracy of the annual coding notices it issues as part of the operation of the PAYE system.

But where an individual's circumstances differ from the information held by the Department, changes may be needed to bring an individual's tax code up to date. HMRC therefore issues coding notices in advance of the new tax year to allow individuals time to check they are correct and to contact the Department if their tax code does need updating before the start of the year to reflect any changes in their circumstances.

Customers are encouraged to use the information provided on HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/incometax/tax-codes.htm

to help them understand their PAYE tax code and if necessary contact their tax office to update their code. Information on how to find your tax office is available at:

http://search2.hmrc.gov.uk/kbroker/hmrc/locator/locator.jsp

This year, following the introduction of a new National Insurance and PAYE Service, HMRC has identified several situations where, due to a mismatch between data held on HMRC's systems and data supplied by employers and pension providers, individuals could receive an incorrect coding notice. The Department is reviewing all affected individuals, publicising the issue on its website and providing regular updates on the types of situations that could lead to incorrect coding notices.

No estimates have been made on the number of incorrect coding notices issued as it is normal for a proportion to need updating to reflect changes in an individual's circumstances. This year around 700,000 customers have contacted HMRC to request an updated notice of coding.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on branded *(a)* stationery and *(b)* other products in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will list the branded items. [3[illegible]668]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 11 March 2010]*: The Department's expenditure on branded stationery and other products was as follows:

(a) £11,760 on departmental branded stationery (letterheads, business cards and other stationery).

(b) Other products: £11,690 on various items such as agendas, backdrops, signage, brochures and on merchandise for DCMS launches and events.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of the benchmark results of the Civil Service People Survey for his Department and its agencies. [322578]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department will publish the October 2009 staff survey results on the DCMS website in April 2010. Following publication, a copy of both the DCMS and The Royal Parks Agency results will be placed in the Library.

Diamond Jubilee 2012

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. [322525]

Margaret Hodge: Planning for the Diamond Jubilee is still at an early stage and officials keep all Ministers fully informed. I expect my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State to have discussions with my noble Friend, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the Queens Diamond Jubilee.

Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on *(a)* new flags and *(b)* flag maintenance in each of the last five years. [322603]

Margaret Hodge: Since 2007-08 the Department has spent the following on new flags and flag maintenance for its Headquarters building. Costs relating to years prior to 2007-08 are not available.

	New flags (£)	*Flag maintenance (£)*
2007-08	225.01	491.63
2008-09	0	1,109.16
2009-10	0	1,318.14

The Department has responsibility for providing facilities for a number of state occasions, which includes flag flying.

Since 2005-06 the Department has spent the following on the purchase of new flags and flag maintenance for ceremonial events.

	New flags (£)	*Flag maintenance (£)*
2005-06	71,570.99	35,419.97
2006-07	17,892.08	[1]32,641.97
2007-08	26,157.67	[1]39,745.57
2008-09	23,124.50	[1]40,430.64
2009-10 (April 09 to January 2010)	31,245.00	[1]19,751.43

[1] From 2006 the flag maintenance costs included expenditure for ad hoc events for which the Department was reimbursed: 2006/07 = £2,260.50; 2007/8 =£3,353.44; 2008/9 =£5,839.50 and 2009/10 = £3,472.00

Flags: Correspondence

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many items of correspondence on the subject of flags his Department has received from members of the public in the last 12 months. [322609]

Margaret Hodge: Between 15 March 2009 and 15 March 2010, the Department received 83 items of correspondence in which the subject of flags was the primary issue.

Seven letters were from Members of Parliament and the remainder from members of the public. The Department holds no records of further representations on this subject during this time period.

It is possible that further correspondence could relate to flags as a secondary issue, however, this information could only be identified at disproportionate cost.

Olympic Games 2012: Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department plans to spend on flags for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [322596]

Tessa Jowell: I am replying as Minister for the Olympics. As part of the public sector funding package for hosting the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, there is a budget of £32 million for the Look of London 2012. This budget will be used for street dressing, including flags, across the UK.

The creative design of this project is under development.

St. George's Day

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether members of his Department plan to attend events to commemorate St. George's Day 2010 in an official capacity. [322598]

Margaret Hodge: On 23 April, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport will fly the St. George's Flag alongside the Union Flag to celebrate St. George's Day. At present Ministers of the Department have no plans to attend St. George's Day events in an official capacity.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how much his Department plans to spend on activities to commemorate St. George's Day in 2010; [322599]

(2) what steps his Department plans to take to commemorate St. George's Day in 2010; and how much it plans to spend on such activities. [322601]

Margaret Hodge: On 23 April the Department for Culture, Media and Sport will fly the St. George's Flag alongside the Union Flag to celebrate St. George's Day. This will be at minimal cost.

English Heritage plans to mark the day with events at several properties around the country, the biggest of which will be a two day St. George's Day Festival at Wrest Park in Bedfordshire. English Heritage's total planned spend for production and marketing of their St. George's Day events in 2010 is £43,000, which they expect to recoup from income earned through admissions, retail and membership.

World Heritage Sites: National Lottery

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many World Heritage Sites in the UK have received grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund since the inception of the National Lottery; and what the aggregate monetary value of such grants was. [322617]

Margaret Hodge: Between November 1994 and 31 March 2009, 20 World Heritage Sites in the UK benefited from Heritage Lottery Fund grants to 413 projects totalling £288 million.

Heritage Lottery Fund has supplied the figures of the funding allocated to projects in the table.

Region	*World Heritage Site*	*Number of projects*	*Value of awards (£)*
England	Bath	40	8,513,987
Wales	Blaenavon	12	9,120,345
England	Canterbury	5	3,213,342
England	Cornwall and West Devon	56	13,976,968
England	Derwent Valley	28	4,149,965
England	Durham Castle and Cathedral	4	591,955
Scotland	Edinburgh	73	61,976,427
Northern Ireland	Giant's Causeway	1	37,500
England	Greenwich	21	62,219,082
Wales	Gwynedd, Castles of Edward I	3	1,127,500
England	Hadrian's Wall	53	19,006,012
England	Ironbridge	27	9,916,584
England	Jurassic Coast	41	5,250,334
England	Kew Gardens	4	4,955,500
England	Liverpool	32	69,357,571

Region	*World Heritage Site*	*Number of projects*	*Value of awards (£)*
Scotland	New Lanark	6	4,903,819
Scotland	Orkney	1	50,000
England	Saltaire	2	3,358,800
England	Tower of London	3	5,845,100
England	Westminster Abbey	1	259,900
Total		413	287,830,691

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy: National Policy Statements

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects the national policy statements on energy to come into effect. [322365]

Mr. Kidney: The Government intend to finalise and formally designate the energy National Policy Statements later in 2010.

Natural Gas: Imports

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the volume of imported gas which will be re-exported to Europe from the UK *(a)* in 2010 and *(b)* in each of the next five years. [322031]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 12 March 2010]:* It is not possible to calculate these volumes. This is because, once imported, gas enters the National Transmission System, where it is comingled with gas from other sources; this makes it impossible to say whether or when gas that is exported had previously been imported.

CABINET OFFICE

Business: Closures

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate has been made of the number of small businesses which have closed in *(a)* Essex, *(b)* Southend West constituency and *(c)* England and Wales in each year since 1997. [321898]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what estimate has been made of the number of small businesses which have closed in a) Essex, b) Southend West constituency and c) England and Wales in each year since 1997. (321898)

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available for 2002 onwards from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

Information on the number of enterprise deaths by parliamentary constituency is only available from 2005 onwards. The table below contains the latest statistics available on active enterprises with less than 50 employment for England and Wales, Essex county and Southend West.

Deaths for enterprises with less than 50 employment

	England and Wales	*Essex county*	*Southend West*
2002	195,575	5,275	n/a
2003	214,135	5,830	n/a
2004	224,340	5,790	n/a
2005	210,210	5,555	345
2006	190,140	5,095	340
2007	206,655	5,655	300
2008	201,185	5,635	355

n/a = Not available

Cabinet: Exeter

Mr. Swire: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the cost was of security arrangements for the meeting of the Cabinet in Exeter on 5 February 2010; and from what budgets that cost was met; [322277]

(2) which Ministers travelled by Government Car Service car to the meeting of the Cabinet in Exeter on 5 February 2010; [322278]

(3) from what budgets the costs of transport to and from the meeting of the Cabinet in Exeter on 5 February 2010 were met; [323137]

(4) from what budgets the costs of the meeting of the Cabinet in Exeter on 5 February 2010 were met. [323138]

Tessa Jowell: The visit of the Cabinet to Exeter on 5 February 2010 was one of several ministerial visits across the region that day. There was a public engagement event and a formal Cabinet meeting. The purpose of the meeting was for the Cabinet as a whole to hear the views of people in the south-west. Feedback from local people who have attended the Exeter event and other previous meetings has been very positive; people welcomed the opportunity to raise important local, regional or national issues directly with the Cabinet.

The cost of the public engagement event and the Cabinet meeting was approximately £51,964, excluding VAT. This figure includes the cost of hiring the venue, catering, associated security and delegate management. The budget for these events is held by the Cabinet Office. The cost of any security provided by the police is a matter for the relevant police force. The transport to and from these visits is a matter for the Secretary of State in each Department but wherever possible Ministers are encouraged to travel by public transport and keep costs to a minimum.

Civil Servants: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many full-time equivalent civil servants have been employed in Milton Keynes in each year since 1997. [321873]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statustics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2910:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many full-time equivalent civil servants have been employed in Milton Keynes in each year since 1997. (321873)

A consistent time series for the number of full-time equivalent civil servants employed in Milton Keynes is only available back to 2005.

The requested data are attached at Annex A.

Annex A. Civil Service employment in Milton Keynes[1] all employees

	Full time equivalent
2005[2]	1,830
2006[2]	1,830
2007[3]	1,930
2008[3]	1,970
2009[3]	2,000

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.

[2] 2005-2006 Mandate only - incomplete coverage of Civil Service departments.

[3] 2007-2009 Annual Civil Service Employment Survey - 100 per cent. coverage of Government departments and agencies.

Source:

Mandate collection (2005-06)

Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (2007-09)

Electorate: British Nationals Abroad

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many British nationals resident in each country outside the UK were registered to vote in UK elections on the most recent date for which figures are available. [322822]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many British nationals resident in each country outside the UK were registered to vote in UK elections on the most recent date for which figures are available. (322822)

The total number of overseas electors registered to vote in UK parliamentary elections was 14,901 on 1 December 2009, the most recent date for which figures are available. ONS does not have information on which country overseas electors are resident in.

Office for National Statistics

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 655W, on civil servants: surveys, by what means an hon. Member may commission specific analyses from the Office for National Statistics. [322912]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking pursuant to the Answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 25 January 2010, Official Report, column 655W, on civil servants: surveys, by what means an hon. Member may commission specific analyses from the Office for National Statistics. (322912)

As I explained in my letter to the Rt. Hon. Francis Maude, MPs may commission ONS to carry out specific analyses from ONS surveys. Requests for such analyses should be directed to me in the first instance.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what *(a)* desks and *(b)* offices the Office for National Statistics has at UK (i) airports and (ii) ports. [322915]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I am replying to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what (a) desks and (b) offices the Office for National Statistics has at UK (i) airports and (ii) ports. (322915)

The Office for National Statistics has desks and Offices at the following Airports, Ports and International Rail Stations in order to conduct the International Passenger Survey.

Airport Desks

Gatwick Airport
Heathrow Airport
Manchester Airport
Stansted Airport

Airport Offices

Birmingham International Airport
Bristol Airport
Cardiff Airport (to be vacated)
Gatwick Airport
Glasgow Airport
Heathrow Airport
Liverpool John Lennon Airport
Luton Airport
Manchester Airport
Newcastle Airport
Stansted Airport

Port Offices

Harwich
Holyhead

Station Offices

Ashford International Rail Terminal
Cheriton Channel Tunnel Terminal
St Pancras International.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of national output was contributed by Government spending in each year since 1996. [322891]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the proportion of national output was contributed by Government spending in each year since 1996. (322891)

General Government Final Consumption Expenditure (GGFCE) as a proportion of GDP is shown at market prices from 1996 to 2009 in the table below:

	General Government final consumption expenditure (market prices) (£ million)	*GDP (market prices) (£ million)*	*GGFCE as a proportion of GDP (market prices) (percentage)*
1996	148,767	781,726	19.0
1997	150,652	830,094	18.1
1998	156,490	879,102	17.8
1999	169,652	928,730	18.3
2000	181,972	976,533	18.6
2001	194,584	1,021,828	19.0
2002	212,577	1,075,564	19.8
2003	232,819	1,139,746	20.4
2004	251,114	1,202,956	20.9
2005	268,088	1,254,058	214
2006	285,187	1,325,795	21.5
2007	294,713	1,398,882	21.1
2008	313,562	1,448,391	21.6
2009	329,289	1,396,474	23.6

The series for GGFCE and GDP as shown in the table above are the most up-to-date figures published by the Office for National Statistics on 26th February 2010. They can be accessed on our website via the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/tsdtables1.asp?vlnk=pn2

Table C1 in the link contains the series for GGFCE (identifier: NMRP) and GDP (identifier: YBHA).

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Social Homebuy transactions have been completed to date. [323184]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Dudley, North (Mr. Austin) to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 9 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 208-10W.

Council Housing Finance Review

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will publish the working papers produced by the Review of Council Housing Finance relating to *(a)* core and non-core services and costs and *(b)* the research referred to in paragraph 3.20 of the consultation paper. [320572]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 4 March 2010]:* The research is available on the Communities and Local Government website and the document has been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Research

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the research report commissioned by his Department with reference *(a)* ANS020338, *(b)* RAE31623, *(c)* RAE312162, *(d)* ANS020336 and *(e)* RAE312161. [308832]

Barbara Follett: A copy of the research report for the following contracts have been placed in the Library:

ANS020336: Assessment of the evidence on the integration of new migrants

RAE31623: International Migration and Rural Economies

RAE312162: Scenario Building for Local and Sectoral Economic Performance under Changing Net Migration

RAE312161: Projections of Migration Inflows under Alternative Scenarios for the UK and World Economies.

A research report for ANS020338 Drivers of International Migration to the UK and the Regions has not been published yet as the project is not due to be completed until March 2010.

Eco-towns

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Mid Worcestershire on 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 948W, on eco-towns, what other information on eco-towns published by external bodies *(a)* has been and *(b)* is planned to be funded by his Department. [306435]

John Healey: We have provided funding to external bodies to gain expert advice to support the development of the eco-towns programme on a range of issues, including sustainability, financial viability, local impact assessment and the analysis of consultation responses. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 106W.

As I set out in a written ministerial statement on 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 119WS, we are also making £5 million available for studies to test the feasibility of the potential second wave bids for exemplar green developments, as well as £5 million for demonstrator projects.

Energy Performance Certificates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many energy performance certificates (EPCs) were lodged on the EPC Register between 18 September 2008 and 31 May 2009. [320282]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 4 March 2010]:* A total of 1,639,834 domestic and 80,641 non domestic Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) were lodged on the EPC Registers between 18 September 2008 and 31 May 2009.

Green Belt: Property Development

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of new dwellings have been built in designated Green Belt land in each region in each year since 1997. [320528]

Mr. Ian Austin: Land Use Change Statistics Live Table 241 gives an annual regional breakdown of the percentage of new dwellings built within the 2008 designated green belt since 1989. The table can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningbuilding/planningstatistics/livetables/landusechange/

Homelessness: Sefton

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were homeless in Sefton in each year since 2000. [322637]

Mr. Ian Austin: A table of figures on the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as owed a main homelessness duty between 1999-2000 and 2008-09 has been deposited in the Library of the House in response to the question I answered from the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) on 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 843W.

Information is also collected and reported on the number of people who sleep rough—i.e. those who are literally roofless on a single night. Local authority data and count guidance can be found on the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/roughsleeping2009

Housing: Construction

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* social and *(b)* private homes which meet the lifetime homes standard have been built in each year since the standard was introduced; and what targets there are for the number of (i) private and (ii) social homes to be built to the standard. [319041]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following numbers are only those delivered via the National Affordable Housing Programme. The Lifetime Home Standard was also introduced in the Property and Regeneration Programme in 2005 and as such an increasing number of homes being delivered through this programme will attain the Lifetime Homes Standard. We do not hold this information centrally and the figures could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

2006-07: 3,120

2007-08: 4,964

2008-09: 5,199

We do not retain information centrally as to the number of private sector homes built to the Lifetime Homes Standard and figures could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

There are no targets established for private sector homes to be built to the Lifetime Homes Standard. In the 2008 strategy 'Lifetime Homes Lifetime Neighbourhoods—a National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society' we stated: "Our aspiration is that by 2013 all new homes will be being built to Lifetime homes Standards" (paragraph 5 page 90).

In the same strategy we committed to 'Make adherence to Lifetime Homes Standard mandatory for all public sector housing by 2011' (Actions, p95).

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average density of new dwellings was in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area in each year since 1997. [320526]

Mr. Ian Austin: Land Use Change Statistics Live Table 231 gives an annual regional breakdown of the density of new dwellings from 1989.

Land Use Change Statistics Live Table 232 gives a local authority level breakdown of the density of all new dwellings that were built. Estimates at a local authority level are provided as multi-year averages due to the volatile nature of the data at spatial levels lower than Government Office Region.

Both tables can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningbuilding/planningstatistics/livetables/landusechange/

Land Use

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to restore Live Tables 251 and 252 on Land Use Change statistics on his Department's website. [320525]

Mr. Ian Austin: Land Use Change Statistics Live Tables 251 and 252 are available on the Department's website, they were last updated in January 2010.

Both tables can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningbuilding/planningstatistics/livetables/landusechange/

The next update will be in May 2010.

Local Government: National Parks Authorities

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on the potential for closer co-operation between local authorities and national park authorities. [301755]

Mr. Ian Austin: We encourage the national park authorities to explore all avenues to improve their efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of national park purposes.

The authorities already work closely with their constituent local authorities and their membership structure provides for the majority being councillors from these local authorities. This close relationship has been further enhanced by the provisions in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

We are currently consulting on guidance on the establishment of local authority leaders' boards under Part 5 of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act. Representations have been received from national parks and we will publish the guidance shortly.

Ordnance Survey: Finance

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps will be taken to replace revenue foregone by Ordnance Survey should its geographic information be made available without charge. [321212]

Mr. Ian Austin: Government are committed to ensuring a sustainable operating model for Ordnance Survey so that it can continue to maintain the supply of high quality geographic information to Government and other users. Details on the model selected will be set out in the Government's response to the public consultation on policy options for geographic information from Ordnance Survey.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Children: Abuse

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1234W, on the Irish Government Commission: child abuse, whether he has *(a)* taken any steps and *(b)* made any decisions following consideration of (i) the letter from the Northern Ireland Minister of Health and (ii) the email from the solicitor from Northern Ireland. [322827]

Paul Goggins: I have replied directly to the Northern Ireland Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, and my officials have written to the solicitor concerned. We have given assurances that we are happy to assist in any way to progress the issue when there is an agreed way forward.

Offences Against Children

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 639W, on clergy: misconduct, if he will publish the reply made by his officials to the solicitor Joe Rice. [322825]

Paul Goggins: I have placed a copy of this correspondence in the Library of the House, along with a copy of a further letter to the same firm of solicitors which was issued on 16 February 2010.

Andrew Mackinlay: [illegible] ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 497W, on clergy: misconduct, if he will initiate discussions with *(a)* the Irish government, *(b)* the Roman Catholic Bishop's Conference of Ireland and Primate of Ireland and *(c)* the Papal Nuncio on the implications of the report of the Irish Commission of Inquiry into sex abuse and related misconduct by members of the clergy and religious orders transferred to dioceses or religious houses in Northern Ireland or elsewhere in the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [322826]

Paul Goggins: This matter cuts across the responsibilities of a number of Departments in both the devolved and reserved areas. I understand that, following the resolution passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly, the Northern Ireland Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety is preparing a paper for the Northern Ireland Executive, setting out options for the way ahead. I have already indicated our commitment to participate fully in any agreed actions. Until then, it would be premature for us to act unilaterally or to initiate discussions with any of the individuals or organisations.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 208W, on clergy: misconduct, whether the Northern Ireland Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has responded to his invitation to assist him in progressing the issue of clergy misconduct and sexual abuse pursuant to the commission of inquiry conducted in the Irish Republic; and if he will make a statement. [322828]

Paul Goggins: We have not as yet received any further approach from the Northern Ireland Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety. It is my understanding that he has also written to a number of his fellow Ministers in the NI Executive on the matter and is currently considering their responses.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 208W, on clergy: misconduct, whether he has received any representations from the Irish government on the issue of clergy misconduct and sexual abuse pursuant to the commission of inquiry conducted in the Irish Republic since the date of that Answer; and if he will make a statement. [322829]

Paul Goggins: No such representation has been received from the Irish Government.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small businesses have applied for a loan through the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme; what criteria are used by his Department in deciding suitability for a loan under the scheme; under what circumstances an application for such a loan would be refused; how many applications have been *(a)* accepted and *(b)* refused; what the average loan made was; whether interest is charged on each loan; how much has been allocated by his Department to the scheme for 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [321941]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, as of 3 March 2010, over £1.2 billion of eligible applications from almost 11,000 firms has been granted, being processed or assessed. Of which, over 8,500 businesses have been offered loans totalling over £860 million. The average value of offered loans is around £101,000.

The Department plays no role in the application or decision making process. Businesses may apply for a loan from any one of the accredited participating lenders who will assess which form of lending, including an Enterprise Finance Guarantee backed loan, is most appropriate. We do not hold figures for those businesses which are instead offered a normal commercial loan, or are rejected for failing to meet the lender's commercial criteria.

There are three main criteria for a business being offered an EFG loan application:

The business meeting the lender's normal commercial criteria in relation to the viability of the business and serviceability of the loan. This judgment will vary according to the lender concerned.

The lender determining that use of EFG, rather than a normal commercial loan, is necessary because of no or insufficient security available on the part of the business.

The business meeting the basic EFG eligibility criteria with respect to the size of loan, purpose of loan, turnover size, business sector etc.

Each lender has access to the EFG web portal through which they administer the EFG eligibility criteria. The main EFG eligibility criteria and a full list of accredited lenders is detailed on the BIS website:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/enterprise/finance/efg/page37607.html

The level of interest rates and any other fees or charges made by lenders in connection with any lending are a matter for the lender concerned. This information is not held by the Department. However, we would expect such charges made in connection with lending backed by EFG to be line with their normal commercial lending.

As announced in the pre-Budget report in December 2009, EFG will facilitate lending of up to £500 million between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many projects have been funded by the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme in each region in each year since 2005-06; and how much funding was provided under the scheme *(a)* to each such project and *(b)* in total in each of those years. [321942]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Small Firms Loan Guarantee, which was replaced by the Enterprise Finance Guarantee in January 2009, was used to facilitate additional bank lending to individual businesses rather than to projects. As such, it would be inappropriate to detail individual loans on the basis of commercial confidentiality.

The number and value of SFLG loans made to businesses within each UK region in each financial year are detailed in the Industrial Development Act Annual report for that respective year. Copies of each report are deposited in the Library of the House on publication—usually in June of each year.

The House of Commons (HC) numbers for each edition from 2005-06 are as follows:

For the year ended 31 March 2006 - HC 1292, for the year ended 31 March 2007 - HC 652, for the year ended 31 March 2008 - HC 722, and for the year ended 31 March 2009 - HC 668.

Business: Snow and Ice

Mr. Todd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effect on small businesses of the recent severe weather conditions; and if he will make a statement. [321847]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not undertaken an assessment of the effect of the recent severe weather conditions on small businesses specifically. It is likely that any negative impact on the economy as a whole resulting from the recent adverse weather will be largely short-term, with some delayed activity shifted to later months, for example. The Government continue to monitor all relevant factors from a range of sources to inform its assessment of the UK economy.

Business: South East

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many grants to small firms based in *(a)* Southend West constituency, *(b)* Southend, *(c)* Essex and *(d)* the Metropolitan police area of London under the Small Firms Loan Guarantee were of an amount between (i) £5,000 and £20,000, (ii) £20,001 and £50,000, (iii) £50,001 and £100,000, (iv) £100,001 and £150,000, (v) £150,001 and £200,000 and (vi) £200,001 and £250,000 in each of the last five years. [321832]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Small Firms Loan Guarantee (SFLG) data in the form requested are only available from December 2005. The Enterprise Finance Guarantee replaced the Small Firms Loan Guarantee in January 2009.

The breakdown of the number of loans to small businesses based in the Southend, West constituency, the Southend Unitary Authority area, the county of Essex and the London region in the amounts specified in each full year from 2006 are as follows:

Southend. West constituency

	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Up to £20,000	1	0	1	0	2
£20,001 to £50,000	1	0	1	0	2
£50,001 to £100,000	1	0	1	0	2
£100,001 to £150,000	2	0	0	1	3
£150,001 to £200,000	0	0	0	0	0
£200,000 to £250,000	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5	0	3	1	9

Southend on Sea unitary authority

	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Up to £20,000	1	1	2	0	4
£20,001 to £50,000	2	0	3	0	5
£50,001 to £100,000	3	2	1	1	7
£100,001 to £150,000	2	0	1	1	4
£150,001 to £200,000	0	0	0	0	0
£200,000 to £250,000	0	0	0	0	0
Total	8	3	7	2	20

Essex county

	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Up to £20,000	6	2	13	3	24
£20,001 to £50,000	20	15	22	2	59
£50,001 to £100,000	25	19	30	3	77
£100,001 to £150,000	7	6	6	3	22
£150,001 to £200,000	3	1	1	0	5
£200,000 to £250,000	1	1	3	0	5
Total	62	44	75	11	192

London region—police authority area figures not held

	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Up to £20,000	38	26	21	1	86
£20,001 to £50,000	178	126	124	16	444
£50,001 to £100,000	180	155	118	19	472
£100,001 [illegible] £150,000	84	66	51	7	208
£150,001 to £200,000	16	19	17	2	54
£200,000 to £250,000	27	21	12	2	62
Total	523	413	343	47	1,326

SFLG data by police authority area are not available.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications for funding under the Small Firms Guarantee Scheme have been made by small firms based in *(a)* Southend West constituency, *(b)* Southend, *(c)* Essex and *(d)* the Metropolitan police area of London in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [321833]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of SFLG loans made to small firms based in Southend West, Southend on Sea, Essex and London in each year from 2006 are as follows:

Number

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Total*
Southend, West constituency	5	0	3	1	9
Southend on Sea	8	3	7	2	20
Essex	62	44	75	11	192
London	523	413	343	47	1,326

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee replaced the Small Firms Loan Guarantee in January 2009. Please note the figures for London are for the region as figures are not available by police authority area.

Businesses would apply for a loan from any one of the participating accredited lenders who would assess which form of lending, including a SFLG backed loan, was most appropriate. We do not hold figures for those businesses which were instead offered a normal commercial loan, or were rejected for failing to meet the lender's commercial criteria.

Employment Agencies: EU Law

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 289W, on employment agencies: EU, what form the discussions with interested parties on the drafting of the guidance will take; when he expects those discussions to take place; and from which industry representatives he plans to seek contributions. [322801]

Mr. McFadden: The Agency Workers Regulations 2010 were laid before Parliament on 21 January 2010. Accompanying guidance will be drawn up in consultation with stakeholders and published in advance of the regulations coming into force on 1 October 2011. The important role this guidance will play has been one of the subjects discussed with not only representatives of the agency work industry but also other stakeholders during recent consultations preceding the laying of the regulations.

We are planning to seek views on the guidance from interested parties later this year including the recruitment sector, employer associations, trade union bodies, SMEs and organisations that are large users of temporary workers and agency workers themselves.

Insurance

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he last had discussions with representatives of the insurance industry on the adequacy of the information made available to policy-holders on exclusions applying to insurance cover. [322452]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

The Government do not prescribe the terms, conditions or price that insurance companies may set when offering insurance.

The matter raised in this question is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority, whose day-to-day operations are independent from Government. I have asked the FSA to write to my hon. Friend.

Learning Disability

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate has been made of the funding required by mainstream further education colleges and training institutions to administer the provision of learning for those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [322923]

Kevin Brennan: The Department allocates funding to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for the provision of further education (FE) and training for adult learners aged 19 and over. Planned investment in adult participation is £3.4 billion in the 2009/10 financial year increasing to £3.5 billion in the 2010-11 financial year.

In 2009/10 academic year the cost of provision for learners aged 19 or over with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD) undertaking provision in mainstream FE colleges and training organisations will be supported through the same adult budgets as those learners without LDD.

Learners with LDD in mainstream provision can have their additional support needs met through Additional Learning Support Funding (ALS). For the 2009/10 academic year around £150 million was allocated to FE colleges and training organisations for this purpose. However it should be noted that ALS funding is not solely for learners with LDD and can also be used to meet the needs of other vulnerable groups.

Funding allocations for 2010/11 academic year are currently under way. It is therefore not possible to provide a funding amount at this stage.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what estimate has been made of the number of people who will be categorised as having learning difficulties and/or disabilities in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11 under the provision of the Adult Learner Responsive sub-total for the Development Learning category in his Department's document, Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11, published in November 2009; and if he will make a statement.; [322925]

(2) what estimate has been made of the proportion of the cost of meeting the requirements of people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities which will be met from the provision under the Adult Learner Responsive sub-total for the Developmental Learning category in his Department's document, Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11, published in November 2009; and if he will make a statement; [322926]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of learners of each type classified as learners under the provision of the Adult Learner Responsive sub-total for the Development Learning category in his Department's document, Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11, published in November 2009 in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [322927]

Kevin Brennan: The Department routes funding through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for the provision of further education (FE) and skills training for adult learners aged 19 and over.

It is for learners to declare whether or not they consider themselves to have a learning difficulty and/or disability. As a result the actual number of learners in this category accessing FE and skills provision will vary from year to year, but we estimate there have been around 200,000 each year from 2006/07 academic year to 2008/09 academic year (the most recent year for which complete data are available).

Within this overall total, learners with LDD follow various courses, depending on their personal preferences or the severity of their disability. It is therefore not possible to predict how many learners of the total with LDD will pursue courses that would be categorised as Developmental Learning. The Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11 does, however, set out the commitment that the total adult FE and skills budget will provide sufficient funding to maintain volumes at the level of previous years.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations have been received by his Department on the needs of learners with learning difficulties and disabilities and the strategy document, Skills investment strategy 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [322736]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 17 March 2010]:* The Department has received a range of correspondence and has met with stakeholders in recent weeks in respect of learners with learning difficulties and disabilities. These representations have covered a number of areas, including funding, curriculum, accessibility and the employment of people with learning disabilities.

Investing in further education (FE) and skills training for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities remains a priority and we have set out our continuing commitment to maintaining the opportunities for this group of learners in the Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of the number of learners with a learning *(a)* difficulty and *(b)* disability who will be entitled to a learning difficulty assessment in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; and if he will make a statement; [322737]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of education provision for learners with a learning *(a)* difficulty and *(b)* disability who have received a learning difficulty assessment in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [322739]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 15 March 2010]:* Learners aged 19 to 25 entitled to a learning difficulty assessment are covered by a statutory duty placed on the Learning Skills Council under s139 A of the Learning and Skills Act 2000. From 1 April 2010, responsibility will transfer to local authorities (LAs) following changes announced in the Learning Skills Act 2008 and the Apprenticeship, Schools, Children and Learning Act 2009. Such learners will continue to be funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families through the arrangements with the Young People's Learning Agency and LAs. This will support the policy that there should be a single body with responsibility for all young adults with learning difficulties and/or disabilities up to the age of 25 who require significant levels of support.

It is not possible to separately identify learners in receipt of S139A assessments. However we are able to estimate that there have been around 200,000 learners aged 19 and over in mainstream provision with a self-declared disability each year from 2006/07 to 2008/09 academic year (the latest whole year for which data are available).

National Measurement System

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding he allocated to the National Measurement System in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* each of the previous nine financial years. [322324]

Mr. Lammy: The Department's financial records show that the National Measurement System received the following funding for the financial years 2002-03 to 2008-09 and the budget for 2009-10 was as follows:

£ million

					Outturn					Budget
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Near cash	[1,2]55	[1,2]56	47	64	63	58	74	63	60	58
Non cash	[1]	[1]	1	1	4	6	-1	1	10	12
Capital	[1]	[1]	13	24	16	4	18	11	12	12

[1] Indicates a brace

[2] Represents both resource and capital expenditure—the split of funding (near-cash, non-cash and capital) prior to the financial year 2002-03 is not available

The figures represent both expenditure on NMS programmes and payments related to the construction of new accommodation for the National Physical Laboratory, initially under a PFI contract, and consequential demolition and remediation works. In addition, prior to 2003/04, the budgets for the Materials Measurement and Government Chemist programmes were not classified as part of the National Measurement System.

Post Offices

Mr. Paice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of post office branches in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas in (i) England and (ii) Wales in each of the last 10 years. [323246]

Mr. McFadden: I have asked the managing director of Post Office Ltd. to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regeneration: West Midlands

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on Government policy for economic regeneration in Birmingham and the West Midlands. [312774]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In the normal course of business I have regular meetings with ministerial colleagues on economic regeneration, including but not limited to Birmingham and the West Midlands. These conversations have included meetings with the Regional Minister, my hon. Friend the Member for Dudley, North (Mr. Austin). The Government remain committed to economic regeneration in the West Midlands, as evidenced by the Early Advantage Fund, a new £8 million early stage venture capital fund set up in December 2009 by Advantage West Midlands which will make investments of up to £250,000 in young businesses alongside private sector investors, and the Manufacturing Technology Centre in Coventry, funding for which was agreed by Government on 29 October 2009 and contracts were signed earlier this week.

Regional European Offices

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 1128W, on regional European offices, which bodies audit the accounts of the regional European offices in Brussels; and whether regional European offices are deemed to be public authorities for the purposes of UK *(a)* equality, *(b)* freedom of information and *(c)* human rights legislation. [319797]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is as follows:

Regional European office auditor	*Public authority status*
Advantage West Midlands (AWM)	
West Midlands in Europe (WMiE) is managed primarily through the West Midlands Leaders Board (WMLB). Clement Keys is the appointed auditors for West Midlands Leaders Board (WMLB).	WMiE is deemed a public authority for the purposes of equality, FOI and human rights provisions.
East of England Development Agency (EEDA)	
The East of England Brussels office is managed by the East of England regional assembly (EERA). Whiting and Partners is the appointed auditor for EERA.	The European office is not deemed a public authority for the purposes of equality, FOI and human rights provisions.
East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA)	
The East Midlands' European office is managed by EMDA.	EMDA as a public body is subject to equality, freedom of information and human rights provisions. EMEO is not a legal entity in its own right but as it is line-managed by EMDA it is similarly subject to those provisions.
The budget for the office is managed through EMDA's financial systems and not reported separately. The NAO audit EMDA's accounts.	
London Development Agency (LDA)	
The Audit Commission.	London's European office is deemed a public authority for the purposes of equality, FOI and human rights provisions.
North West Development Agency (NWDA)	
NWDA occupies one room within the North West England Brussels office. The lease is held by Wigan MBC on behalf of regional partners, including NWDA. Each occupier of the Brussels office is audited under their own separate arrangements. The budget for NWDA's occupation is a separate cost centre within NWDA accounts, which is subject to audit by the NAO.	The Brussels office is not a public authority in its own right and it is not a separate legal entity.
One North East (ONE)	
ONE manages the European office on behalf of a regional partnership and subject to a legally binding regional partnership agreement and associated management structures. The office is audited by ONE. ONE accounts are audited by the NAO.	ONE as a public body is subject to equality, freedom of information and human rights provisions. The regional European office is not a legal entity in its own right but as it is line-managed by ONE it is similarly subject to those provisions.

Regional European office auditor	*Public authority status*
South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA)	
SEEDA's Brussels office forms part of a facility that is managed by Kent county council. The accounts are audited by the Audit Commission.	The European office is not deemed a public authority for the purposes of equality, FOI and human rights provisions.
South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA)	
The accounts for the South West Brussels Office (SWUKBO) partnership are currently managed by Somerset county council. The SWUKBO Management Board endorses the accounts on a six monthly basis. The South West RDA's contribution to SWUKBO is subject to audit by the NAO.	The European office is not deemed a public authority for the purposes of equality, FOI and human rights provisions.
Yorkshire Forward (YF)	
Yorkshire Forward's Brussels office is not a separate legal entity. YF's accounts include the expenditure of the Brussels office, and it is therefore audited through the NAO.	Yorkshire Forward as a public body is subject to equality, freedom of information and human rights provisions. Yorkshire Forward's Brussels office is not a legal entity in its own right but as it is line-managed by Yorkshire Forward it is similarly subject to those provisions.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 1128W, on regional European offices, if he will place in the Library a copy of the accounts of each of the regional European offices that are held by each regional development agency. [319798]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is as follows.

Advantage West Midlands (AWM)

The latest accounts West Midlands in Europe are publicly available on the West Midlands in Europe website:

http://www.westmidlandsineurope.org/public_docs/WMiE_Audit_report_2008-09.pdf

East of England Development Agency (EEDA)

The East of England Development Agency does not manage the East of England European Office and therefore does not hold this information.

The East of England European Office is managed by the East of England Regional Assembly on behalf of the East of England European Partnership. This is a region-wide partnership of mainly local authorities, EEDA, and the Government Office for the East of England. All members subscribe to the running costs of the office.

East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA)

The East Midlands European Office is a partnership organisation, with 21 contributing partners, line-managed by the East Midlands Development Agency. As such it is not a legally recognised entity and does not have independent accounts. The budget for the office is managed through the EMDA financial systems and not reported separately. EMDA's accounts are held in the Library and can be found on the EMDA website:

www.emda.org.uk/about/annualreport.asp

London Development Agency (LPA)

The LDA does not manage the London European Office and as such does not hold accounts for the office. In financial year 2008-09 the LDA contributed £50,000 to the London European Office which is part of the Greater London Authority (GLA) and represents the Mayor of London and the GLA's functional bodies—Transport for London, the London Development Agency, the Metropolitan Police and the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority—to the EU institutions.

This contribution is included within the 'Reduce Disparities in Labour Market' expenditure line of the segmental analysis on page 26 of the annual statement of accounts for 2008-09:

http://www.lda.gov.uk/upload/pdf/LDA_Statement_of_Accounts_2008_2009.pdf

North West Development Agency (NWDA)

NWDA does not manage the North West England Brussels Office and as such does not hold accounts for the office. Information on NWDA's contribution to the office is contained in NWDA's accounts and is available online:

http://www.nwda.co.uk/media-library/publications/corporate/nwda-accounts-and-financial-st.aspx

One North East (ONE)

ONE does not hold the separate accounts for the Brussels office as the figures are incorporated into ONE's annual accounts. Management Accounts have a completed Income and Expenditure account for 2008-09 which are available online:

http://www.onenortheast.co.uk/lib/liReport/15127/One%20North%20East%20Annual%20Report%20and%20Accounts%202008-9%20with%20annex%2010.7.09%20small.pdf

South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA)

SEEDA's Brussels office forms part of a facility that is managed by Kent county council. SEEDA does not manage the Brussels office and therefore does not hold its accounts. SEEDA is one of a range of partners that contribute to the running costs of the premises. SEEDA does not show expenditure for the Brussels office separately in the annual accounts—this expenditure is included in the figure for 'Other administrative costs' on page 48 of the annual accounts and 'Office and rent costs' under note 5 on page 57.

SEEDA's 2008-09 annual accounts can be accessed online:

http://www.seeda.co.uk/_documentbank/annualReportAccounts20082009.pdf

South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA)

The South West UK Brussels Office (SWUKBO) is a partnership organisation, with 17 contributing partners. The South West RDA does not hold the accounts for

SWUKBO as Somerset county council currently manages them on behalf of the partnership.

The South West RDA's contribution to the South West Brussels Office is funded by a project that falls under the "Vision and Leadership" accounts budget line. Programme expenditure for Vision and Leadership is published in our Annual Report and Financial Statements 2008-09, p63. This can be accessed online:

http://www.southwestrda.org.uk/resources/publications.aspx

Yorkshire Forward (YF)

This information cannot be distinguished from Yorkshire Forward's main accounts. Yorkshire Forward's annual accounts are available online:

http://www.yorkshire-forward.com//sites/default/files/documents/Annual%20report%202008_09.pdf

Venture Capital: Wales

Hywel Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent from the *(a)* UK High Technology Fund, *(b)* Regional Venture Capital Funds, *(c)* Community Development Venture (Bridges) Funds, *(d)* Early Growth Funds, *(e)* Enterprise Capital Funds, *(f)* Aspire Fund and *(g)* Capital for Enterprise Fund in Wales in each year for which figures are available. [321953]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 March 2010]*: As at 31 December 2009 four SMEs located in Wales had received investment support totalling £2.1 million as follows:

Investment	*Fund*	*Year*	*Amount invested (£)*	*Comment*
Investment 1	UK High Technology Fund	2003	400,000	
Investment 2	Early Growth Fund	2004-08	400,000	SME relocated to Wales post initial investment of £100,000 in 2003, follow on investments of £100,000 in 2005, 2006, 2007
Investment 3	Enterprise Capital Fund	2007	800,000	
		2008	300,000	Follow on investment in 2009
Investment 4	Enterprise Capital Fund	2009	200,000	

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Buckinghamshire

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding has been allocated to each school in Buckinghamshire under the Building Schools for the Future scheme; and when he expects each grant to be paid to the local education authority. [322935]

Mr. Coaker: The indicative funding allocation for Buckinghamshire's top priority project is set out in the following table:

		£
School	*Capital value*	*ICT*
Chesham Park Community College	11,716,354	1,190,450
Burnham Upper	10,601,747	1,039,650
Mandeville School (Aylesbury)	13,405,270	1,421,000
The Grange Aylesbury	16,906,257	1,899,500
Buckingham Upper School	14,738,203	1,605,150
Furze Down (SEN) (Winslow)	6,112,666	139,200
Total	73,480,497	7,294,950

The funding is indicative and has been calculated following the established Building Schools for the Future funding methodology of 50 per cent. new build, 35 per cent. major refurbishment and 15 per cent. minor refurbishment as outlined in the funding guidance available on the Partnerships for Schools website.

Specific funding per school will be approved as part of the Outline Business Case.

Funding will begin to be paid when Buckinghamshire reach financial close on these schools. Current timescales suggest that this will be 2012-13.

Children: Social Services

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average tenure was of the Director of Children's Services in each local authority in the last 10 years. [321085]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not collect this information.

Choice Advisers: Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on Choice Advisers in the latest year for which figures are available. [321204]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Choice Advice is an independent service commissioned by local authorities to support the parents who find it hardest to engage with and navigate the admissions system to make informed decisions about which secondary schools will best meet their child's needs.

£6 million has been provided for each of the five financial years 2006-2007 to 2010-2011. This is made up of £5.6 million for local authorities directly and £400,000 for quality assurance, support and evaluation. Each local authority has been allocated £15,000 each year with an additional sum weighted on deprivation.

Departmental Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what advertising campaigns his Department has been responsible for in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; which campaigns have (i) commenced and (ii) continued in 2009-10; and what the cost of each such campaign has been. [311818]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information is outlined in the following tables. The figures include media spend but do not include production and fees.

Table 1 contains the advertising campaigns run by the Department in 2008-09 that continued in 2009-10, along with expenditure.

Table 2 contains advertising campaigns that commenced in 2008-09, but not continued into 2009-10, and those that commenced in 2009-10, along with expenditure. Advertising spend for 2009-10 is up to and including 16 January 2010.

Table 1

		£
	Advertising spend	
Campaign	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Diplomas	2,432,819	340,483
DCSF—STEM	1,753,550	1,249,854
Frank	977,559	1,180,000
Alcohol and Young People Campaign	1,160,103	1,122,954
Teenage Pregnancy	1,527,527	468,110
DCSF—Modern Foreign Languages	1,719,247	1,079,987
Parent Know How	0	13,037
DCSF Summer Holidays Affordable Childcare	202,543	229,490
DCSF Diploma Employer Engagement	602,300	3,413
Total	10,375,648	5,687,328

Table 2

		£
	Advertising spend	
Campaign	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
DCSF—Guardian Education Advertorial	11,040	—
DCSF—Early Years Foundation	23,542	—
14-19 Reform Campaign	941,597	—
Diplomas March Campaign	1,885,861	—
ParentLine March Campaign	41,535	—
Who Do We Think We Are’	2,433	—
National Year of Reading	259,682	—
14-19 Reform Campaign	—	8,766
DCSF—Contact Points Advertorials	—	35,175
Help Give Them a Voice—Social Work Recruitment	—	636,541
Diplomas TV 2009/10	—	1,326,126
Surestart	—	1,275,740
Total	3,165,690	3,282,348

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on office refurbishments in each year since its inception. [320504]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Spend by the Department since its inception date of 28 June 2007 is shown in the table.

Expenditure on refurbishments was higher during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10, owing to an estate rationalisation programme which included the refurbishment of Sanctuary Buildings. The cost of the work was paid for in just over one year by the savings from vacating Caxton House, which has saved about £13 million per annum in running costs.

	Total spend by DCSF on office refurbishments (£)
2007/08	6,827,036
2008/09	4,099,898
2009/10	3,585,353

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of staff in his Department are disabled; and what the average salary in his Department is of *(a)* full-time disabled staff, *(b)* full-time non-disabled staff, *(c)* part-time disabled staff and *(d)* part-time non-disabled staff. [317907]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Data from the last Annual Civil Service Employment Service undertaken in March 2009 shows that 8 per cent. of DCSF staff have declared themselves as having a disability.

Information on the average salaries of disabled and part time staff is not available in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information on pay in respect of part time staff in the DCSF and pay in respect of disabled staff in the civil service as a whole is available from Civil Service Statistics tables at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/Civil-service-tables-2009-final.xls

Departmental Energy

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department plans to take to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010. [319088]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department will take part in the Earth Hour event on the 27 of March by ensuring essential lighting only is operating in our buildings. We will also be publicising this event on our intranet to give our staff an opportunity to take part as individuals.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information technology projects initiated by his Department were cancelled prior to completion in the last 12 months; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [320433]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: No records can be found of any information technology projects initiated by the Department that were cancelled prior to completion for the period 1 April 2009 to 9 March 2010.

Departmental Legal Costs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors have spent in *(a)* legal fees and *(b)* compensation on legal cases concerning remuneration of its employees in each of the last 10 years. [322057]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department was established in June 2007 and there have been no cases concerning employee remuneration. We do not have access to records for employees who have moved to other Government Departments as part of the Machinery of Government changes.

Departmental Location

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on the relocation of staff from posts in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years. [321435]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was formed in June 2007. The Department is not located in Essex and therefore there have been no relocations.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [322070]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The following table gives a breakdown of reported lost or stolen property from the Department of Children, Schools and Families in the last 12 month period April 2009 to March 2010.

	(a) Lost	*(b) Stolen*	*Total*	*Total estimated cost of replacement (£)*
Laptops	—	4	5	3,824.00
Blackberry	9	8	16	944.00
PDAs (not replaced)	1	—	1	0.00
Memory stick	2	—	2	294.00
Staff passes	95	17	112	579.04
Total	16	11	27	5,641.00

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many employees in his Department are in transition prior to being managed out; how long on average the transition window between notification and exit has been in his Department and its predecessors and in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the salary costs of staff in transition in each such year; and what proportion of employees in transition were classed as being so for more than six months in each year. [313248]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: There are currently 31 individuals in the Department that have been declared surplus from their previous post; seven of these have been without a permanent post for more than six months.

All of our surplus staff are actively engaged in delivering a range of departmental projects or business priorities, while seeking a new permanent post with the help of our Brokerage Service. These individuals are known as 'Priority Movers' and receive tailored support to find suitable permanent posts either in the Department or elsewhere (including other Government Departments). The average time that individuals spend as a Priority Mover is two months. None of our Priority Movers have left the Department through compulsory redundancy.

Information on Priority Mover numbers and salary costs for the past five years is either not available or is disproportionate cost.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent staff of each grade are employed by his Department to assist special advisers. [321130]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The special advisers' support office consists of 1.5 full-time equivalent staff, as follows:

0.5 Higher Executive Officer (HEO)
0.5 Executive Officer (EO)
0.5 Executive Assistant (EA).

Departmental Plants

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies has spent on pot plants in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [319197]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Spend by the Department for Children, Schools and Families on pot plants in the last two financial years and the current financial year to date is shown in the table. The Department does not have any agencies.

Expenditure on pot plants was higher during these financial years due to a refurbishment programme at Sanctuary Buildings.

	£
2007-08	42,820.00
2008-09	32,965.00
2009-10	5,845.00

Departmental Travel

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on international travel since May 2007. [317049]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The following table details the amount spent by the Department for Children, Schools and Families on international travel for the last two financial years for which figures are currently available. The amount expended for each year includes the cost of overseas rail, air, car and other travel in addition to the cost of overnight accommodation and travel allowances paid to individual members of staff.

	£
2007-08 (April 2007 to March 2008)	169,771
2008-09 (April 2008 to March 2009)	192,016

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest £.

Figures for 2009-10 will not be available until the end of the current financial year.

Free School Meals

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children at *(a)* denominational primary schools, *(b)* denominational secondary schools, *(c)* maintained primary schools, *(d)* maintained secondary schools, *(e)* grammar schools and *(f)* academies was entitled to free school meals in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [318192]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested is shown in the table.

Number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[1], position in January each year: 2008 and 2009, coverage: England

	2008			2009		
	Number on roll[2]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free meals*	*Number on roll[2]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free meals*
Maintained primary schools[3]	4,090,400	638,310	15.6	4,077,350	653,600	16.0
of which:						
Denominational primary schools[3]	1,201,600	136,220	11.3	1,201,590	142,260	11.8
LA maintained secondary schools[3, 4, 5]	3,214,030	410,810	12.8	3,152,800	406,450	12.9
of which:						
Denominational secondary schools[3, 4, 5]	523,3705	7,420	11.0	522,910	58,220	11.1
Grammar schools	157,450	3,030	1.9	158,650	3,210	2.0
All academies	74,530	21,630	29.0	121,950	32,110	26.3
Academies open in both 2008 and 2009	74,530	21,630	29.0	79,220	23,220	29.3

[1] Those eligible may choose not to take up their offer of a free school meal for various reasons e.g. through preference or through non-attendance on the day. Pupils are counted as eligible only if they meet the eligibility criteria and make a claim.

[2] Includes all full-time and part-time pupils who are sole or dual main registrations. Includes boarders.

[3] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[4] Excludes academies.

[5] Includes grammar schools.

Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children in each local authority area is eligible to receive free school meals. [321940]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested can be found in tables 11a, 11b and 11c in the 'Schools, Pupils and Their Characteristics: January 2009', Statistical First Release at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000843/index.shtml

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in comprehensive schools achieved seven or more GCSEs, including *(a)* English language, *(b)* English literature, *(c)* mathematics, *(d)* history, *(e)* physics, *(f)* biology and *(g)* chemistry in 2009. [304903]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Of the pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in comprehensive[1] schools that achieved seven or more GCSEs at grade A*-G or the equivalent:

470,044 achieved English GCSE;

390,621 achieved English literature GCSE;

469,500 achieved mathematics GCSE;

151,155 achieved history GCSE;

53,353 achieved physics GCSE;

55,035 achieved biology GCSE;

53,501 achieved chemistry GCSE.

[1] Including academies and city technology colleges.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* male and *(b)* female students gained (i) five GCSEs including English and mathematics at grades A* to C, (ii) five GCSEs at grades A* to G and (iii) at least one GCSE pass in each year since 1997. [310563]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 13 January 2010]*: The answer to this question can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils *(a)* entitled and *(b)* not entitled to free school meals attained five GCSEs at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics in each constituency in the latest year for which figures are available. [317730]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested for pupils attending maintained schools (including city technology colleges and academies) has been placed in the House Libraries.

GCSE: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils in state schools in Leeds North West constituency achieved five GCSEs including mathematics and English in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [322697]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is provided in the following table for the 2003/04 and the 2008/09 academic years. Information about whether a pupil achieved five or more GCSEs or equivalent including English and maths GCSEs has only been available on the Department's National Pupil Database since the 2003/04 academic year.

Percentage of pupils attending maintained schools[1] in Leeds, North-West constituency[2] achieving five or more GCSEs or equivalent[3] including English and mathematics GCSEs, 2003/04 and 2008/09[4]

	2003/04	*2008/09*
Percentage of pupils in Leeds, North-West constituency achieving five or more GCSEs or equivalent including English and mathematics GCSEs	89.7	91.3

[1] All maintained schools (including city technology colleges and academies).

[2] Parliamentary constituency figures do not include pupils recently arrived from overseas.

[3] Figures for 2003/04 include GNVQ equivalences and in 2008/09 other equivalences approved for use pre-16.

[4] Figures for 2003/04 are based on pupils aged 15 years old at the start of the academic year. Figures for 2008/09 are based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

Source:

National Pupil Database and Achievement and Attainment Tables (2003/04 final data, 2008/09 amended data)

Grammar Schools: Free School Meals

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what grammar schools there are in each local authority; and what percentage of children attending each school is eligible to receive free school meals. [321892]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

Greater Manchester

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Manchester, Gorton constituency, the effects on that constituency of the policies of his Department and its predecessors since 1997. [322142]

Mr. Coaker: Since 1997 the Government have transformed education and child care with improved outcomes for children and young people. Figures showing the performance at key stage 2 and at GCSE and equivalents in Manchester, Gorton are given in the following tables:

Key stage 2 results of 11 year old pupils attending schools[1] in the Manchester, Gorton constituency

Percentage of pupils gaining level 4 and above	*1997*	*2009[2]*	*Percentage point improvement 1997 to 2009*
Manchester, Gorton			
English	53	74	21
Maths	49	79	30
Science	54	86	32
England			
English	63	80	17
Maths	62	79	17
Science	68	88	20

[1] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including Academies and City Technology Colleges).

[2] Revised data.

Source:

School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables

GCSE and equivalents[1] results for pupils[2] attending schools[3] in the Manchester, Gorton constituency

Percentage of pupils gaining	*1997*	*2009[5]*	*Percentage point improvement 1997 to 2009*
Manchester Gorton			
5+ A*-C	19.4	63.7	44.3
5+ A*-G	73.7	84.3	10.6
England			
5+ A*-C[4]	45.1	70.0	24.9
5+ A*-G[4]	86.4	92.3	5.9

[1] From 2004 results incorporate GCSEs, GNVQs and a range of other qualifications approved pre-16. Prior to 2004 results are based on GCSEs and GNVQs only.

[2] From 2006 figures are for pupils at the end of key stage 4. Prior to 2006 results are based on pupils aged 15.

[3] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools (including academies and city technology colleges) and from 2000 does not include pupils recently arrived from overseas.

[4] England figures also include independent schools as well as hospital schools and PRUs.

[5] Revised data.

Source:

School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables

Further information by constituency is provided within the Department's 'In Your Area' website available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/inyourarea

Information available at constituency level includes the number of specialist schools, number of operational academies, number of teaching assistants and other support staff, number of teachers and pupil:teacher ratios. Where information is not available at constituency level it has been provided at local authority level.

Additional information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Home Education: Inspections

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether all home educated children would receive a visit from a local authority inspector by April 2012 under the provisions proposed in the Children, Schools and Families Bill. [322663]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 16 March 2010]:* The Children, Schools and Families Bill places local authorities under a duty to make arrangements to hold at least one meeting with the child and the parents in the registration period. We envisage that regulations and guidance supporting monitoring will be in place by April 2011, which will enable monitoring to start. We have not consulted on the arrangements for rolling out the new provisions but we envisage that all home educated children known to the local authority will have had a visit arranged by April 2012 if they were on the register in April 2011.

Languages: Education

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the purpose was of his Department's Je suis un Rockstar advertising programme. [315164]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Je Suis Un Rock Star was developed in partnership with Channel 4 as part of the Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) campaign. Its aim was to address the social and cultural barriers which prevent young people learning languages and focus on raising the value of languages. The message of Je Suis Un Rock Star to young people was "if you learn a language it will open up experiences and opportunities which you might otherwise be denied".

Literacy: Primary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary schools in the maintained sector are using Letters and Sounds *(a)* exclusively and *(b)* in combination with one or more commercial phonics programmes; and how many are not using it. [315645]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We do not collect information on "Letters and Sounds". Schools are free to choose whichever phonics product best suits their needs. We do not ask schools to supply us with information on the products they use.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the Letters and Sound reading programme is owned by *(a)* his Department or *(b)* another organisation. [318411]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 24 February 2010]:* 'Letters and Sounds' is the Primary National Strategy's phonics teaching programme. It is owned by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Primary Education: Drama

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to increase the quality and quantity of drama provision in the primary school curriculum. [321717]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Drama forms a major part of both the Understanding the Arts and Understanding English, communication and languages areas of learning within the new primary curriculum. In both areas children should experience working with artists and performing to others. In addition, in both the Children's Plan and the Pupil Guarantee we have made clear our aspiration that all children and young people should experience five hours of quality cultural activity in and out of school each week. This includes both taking part in, and being part of the audience for, drama.

Public Holidays

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the introduction of an additional public holiday; and if he will make a statement. [315124]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not anticipate any additional salary costs resulting from the extra public holiday in 2012.

Schools

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children attended *(a)* two, *(b)* three, *(c)* four and *(d)* five schools in 1980. [311158]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. The pupil level data required to carry out such analysis have only been collected since 2005/06 for secondary schools and since 2006/07 for primary and special schools.

Schools: Fires

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many fires have been reported in schools in each year since 2005; [322414]

(2) how many fires in schools have been classed as arson in each year since 2005; [322415]

(3) how many fatalities and injuries have there been in fires in schools in each year since 2005; [322416]

(4) what estimate his Department has made of the average cost to the public purse of a school fire in the latest period for which figures are available. [322417]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 17 March 2010]:* The latest confirmed figures we have from the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) for England and Wales cover the period 2005-07, and are shown in the following tables.

	Number of fires	(%) arson	Number
2005	1,102	44	485
2006	1,075	41	441
2007	825	42	347

Fires in schools by cause of fire, England, 2005-2007

	Total	Accidental	Deliberate
2005	1,102	615	487
2006	1,075	639	436
2007	825	480	345

Fatalities and injuries in schools in each year since 2005

	All fatalities	Injuries aged 18 yrs or over	Injuries aged 0-17 years	Unspecified
2005	0	33	12	1
2006	0	19	7	
2007	0	26	6	

The last year for which CLG has cost figures is 2004, when 1,229 fires were estimated to cost around £52 million[1], an average of £42,311.

[1] The costs are rounded to the nearest £1 million and are derived from the CLG's cost of Fire Estimates. They cover property damage and the costs of the fire and rescue services attending the fires. They do not include costs of any fires not attended by the Fire and Rescue Services.

See also:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/researchandstatistics/statistics/

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools follow the Building Bulletin 100 guidance on fire sprinklers issued by his Department; and what mechanisms are in place to ensure this guidance is followed; [322898]

(2) how many schools in Coventry are fitted with fire sprinklers. [322899]

Mr. Coaker: On 1 March 2007 my right hon. Friend the Member for South Dorset (Jim Knight), the then Minister of State for Schools launched the policy to install fire sprinkler systems to protect the fabric of new schools. This was included in Building Bulletin 100 later that year. It is best practice to provide sprinkler systems in new school buildings and major refurbishments and DCSF encourages and expects client bodies to install them. Only those buildings which are unsuitable or of very low risk should not now include sprinklers.

Partnerships for Schools monitors which schools in the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme include sprinkler systems and encourages local authorities and other client bodies to include sprinklers in all new schools through BSF procurement documents. This approach has resulted in over 70 per cent. of current new secondary schools in BSF including sprinkler systems. Before the introduction of the policy less than 10 per cent. of new schools had sprinkler systems fitted.

We do not have figures for how many schools procured outside the Building Schools for the Future Secondary School programme include sprinkler systems.

The legal requirements for fire safety measures in schools are set by Building Regulations, which prioritise the life safety of pupils, teachers and other users—not the protection of property. Sprinklers are not required for life safety as they are primarily a property protection measure. Therefore a school building designed to the Building Regulations should be safe whether or not it includes sprinklers.

Information is not collected centrally about which schools in Coventry have sprinklers fitted. However, Coventry city council has a policy to fit fire sprinkler systems in all its new and refurbished schools.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school fires which have occurred since 2004 were investigated by police as suspicious fires. [322900]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not collected centrally.

Schools: Libraries

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's policy is on whether books should be banned from school libraries in circumstances where they have been held to breach laws against incitement; and if he will make a statement. [311458]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The provision of a school library is not a statutory requirement. It is for schools themselves to determine the nature and extent of their school library provision. It is also for schools themselves to determine which books they stock in their libraries, while ensuring they are in line with their particular ethos and comply with their legal and regulatory obligations.

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council published in February 2009 guidance on the management of controversial material in public libraries, which schools can use to help them.

It is a criminal offence under section 19 of the Public Order Act 1986 to publish or distribute written material which is threatening, abusive or insulting and is likely to stir up racial hatred. It is an offence under section 23 of that Act to possess such material. Therefore a school library containing such material may be committing a criminal offence, and could be subject to prosecution.

Also, schools have a duty under section 71 of the Race Relations Act 1976 to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups. Holding books which breach laws against incitement could lead to intervention by the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Finally, schools are under a duty to promote community cohesion, which is also inspected by Ofsted to ensure compliance. Any controversial books or material in schools which could lead to incitement could be a breach of this duty.

Schools: Special Educational Needs

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools for pupils with special educational needs have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in England since 1997. [321445]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 10 March 2010]:* We have data on the overall number of maintained special schools. In 1997, there were 1,171 maintained special schools. By 2009, there were 985 such schools—a net reduction of 186. The rate of reduction of maintained special schools has slowed down: between the years 1986 and 1997 there was a reduction of 234.

Since 1997-98, local authorities have:

built or rebuilt more than 100 new special schools;

significantly refurbished by more than 50 per cent. of the total floor space of a further 125 special schools;

delivered more than 430 new SEN units at mainstream schools;

funded SEN improvements at more than 500 mainstream schools.

Specialised Diplomas: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much he expects to spend on 14 to 19 diplomas in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [321273]

Mr. Iain Wright: Estimated forecast expenditure on diplomas for 2010-11 is £198.3 million. Diploma spending plans beyond the 2010-11 financial year will be considered as part of the next spending review and funding levels will be determined at that stage.

Teachers: Pay

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average salary of a teacher in *(a)* Leeds North West constituency and *(b)* England was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [322696]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available for Leeds North West constituency because it is not possible to verify the reliability of the data source at the constituency level.

The average salary of a teacher in service in local authority maintained schools in Leeds local authority is £34,900 and £35,900 in England, in March 2008, the latest information available.

Teachers: Wolverhampton

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers were employed in state schools in Wolverhampton *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [322631]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is published in table 19 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) 'School Workforce In England (including local authority level figures) January 2009 (Revised)' published on 29 September 2009. The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000874/Tables19to27v2.xls

Teaching Methods

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure the provision of one-to-one tuition for pupils with *(a)* high and *(b)* low attainment at Key Stage 1. [321714]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Government have committed to the national roll-out of the Every Child a Reader and Every Child Counts programmes, which provide one-to-one interventions for the lowest attaining children. We also expect schools to provide personalised learning for all their pupils including high attaining gifted and talented pupils. The Pupil and Parent Guarantees, which will come into force in September 2010, will entitle pupils not making good progress in mathematics or English at Key Stage 1 to catch-up support. They will also ensure that parents or carers are informed when their child is identified as gifted and talented and of the support and challenge the school will provide.

Trade Unions

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many days staff of his Department and its agencies spent on trade union activity in the latest year for which figures are available; and what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of such activity. [320666]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: At the end of the last calendar year, there were four full-time members of staff engaged in national full-time trade union activity and their annual wage bill is £118,000. Other staff in the Department are occasionally engaged in trade union-related work but the information is held locally, not centrally, and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department is moving to three full-time posts in the coming year at an estimated cost of £85,000.

Ministerial Corrections

Monday 8 March 2010

HEALTH

Thrombosis

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when NHS Connecting for Heath plans to make an electronic version of the National Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) Risk Assessment model available to NHS acute trusts for the purposes of recording the proportion of hospital patients risk assessed for VTE; and whether a specific hospital acquired VTE code will be made available. [315481]

[Official Report, 8 February 2010, Vol. 505, c. 717W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Mike O'Brien

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Vale of Glamorgan (John Smith) on 8 February 2010. I am sorry that the answer said that a VTE electronic risk assessment tool 'should be available for use by acute and primary care providers in England by the end of June 2010'. The words "and primary" were included in error.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A venous thromboembolism (VTE) electronic risk assessment tool, fully compliant with the recently-published National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on reducing the risk of VTE in patients admitted to hospital, should be available for use by acute care providers in England by the end of June 2010.

There is currently no individual standard clinical terminology (SNOMED CT) code for the representation of 'hospital-acquired' VTE. A number of codes were added to SNOMED CT during 2009 to support the introduction of electronic VTE risk assessment. There are also pre-existing codes that can be used for recording incidence of the condition, as distinct from risk. There are formal mechanisms for the introduction of new SNOMED CT codes should this prove to be necessary.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Sudan

5. **Mark Durkan** (Foyle) (SDLP): What recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [319386]

[Official Report, 2 March 2010, Vol. 506, c. 786.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Ivan Lewis:

An error has been identified in the response given to the hon. Member for Foyle (Mark Durkan) on 2 March 2010, relating to the number of people displaced from their homes during recent fighting near Eastern Jebel Mara region of Darfur. The answer given stated "Our information is that more than 300,000 people have been forced from their homes-more than double the number in 2008"

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Lewis: The hon. Gentleman is right to raise that issue, about which there is serious concern as it continues to destabilise prospects for progress. Our information is that more than 300,000 people have been forced from their homes in Southern Sudan as a result of tribal fighting and insecurity in the South—more than double the number in 2008. Reliable estimates of the numbers of civilians displaced by fighting between the Sudanese armed forces and the Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA) in the Eastern Jebel Mara since early February are not yet available. We have urged the Sudanese Government and the UN mission to prioritise the protection of civilians and to support reconciliation. We will argue for that in discussing the renewal of the UN's mandate in April.

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 9 March 2010

CABINET OFFICE

10 Downing Street

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 508W, on departmental official hospitality, on what date *(a)* Mr. Derek Draper, *(b)* Mr. Charlie Whelan and *(c)* Mr. Damian McBride last entered the Downing Street/Cabinet Office complex as a visitor. [318328]

[Official Report, 3 March 2010, Vol. 506, c. 1189W.]

Letter of correction from Tessa Jowell:

An error has been identified in the response given to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 3 March 2010. The date and column reference of the *Official Report* were incorrectly given as 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 877W.

The correct answer should have been:

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer given on 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 888W.

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 10 March 2010

JUSTICE

Political Parties

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which provisions of the *(a)* Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, *(b)* Electoral Administration Act 2006 and *(c)* Political Parties and Elections Act 2009 have not yet commenced; and for what reasons in each case. [319612]

[Official Report, 3 March 2010, Vol. 506, c. 1246-1251 W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Michael Wills:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 3 March 2010. It relates to the reason why the provisions on the disposal of election documents in Scotland are not yet in force. The original answer said the provisions were planned for commencement with effect from 1 July 2010.

The correct full answer should have been:

Mr. Wills: I have provided a table which gives detail of the provisions that have not yet commenced, and the reasons for that, for the *(a)* Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, *(b)* Electoral Administration Act 2006 and *(c)* Political Parties and Elections Act 2009.

Section	*Description*	*Reason why not yet in force*
Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000		
6(1)(c)	Review of electoral and political matters (redistribution of Parliamentary seats)	The Government accepted the recommendation of the Committee on Standards in Public Life's Eleventh Report, 'Review of the Electoral Commission', that the Electoral Commission should no longer have any involvement in electoral boundary matters and the provisions in PPERA to allow the transfer of boundary setting functions to the Commission should be repealed. Subsequently, the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 repealed these provisions and removes from the Electoral Commission functions relating to boundary and electoral changes
14 and Schedule 3	Boundary Committees, Transfer of Functions of Boundary Commissions	
17	Transfer of property etc of Boundary Commissions	
Schedule 21, paragraph 6(3), 6(4), 6(7)(1)(a), 7	Minor and consequential amendments	Will be commenced at an appropriate time taking account of status of accounts from previous elections and allowing time for other changes contained in the EAA 2006 to bed in
Electoral Administration Act 2006		
1(2) and (5), 2(2), (4)(9)-(12),5(10),7	CORE scheme	The CORE project has been paused to allow policy on individual electoral registration to develop first (individual registration may change the requirements for CORE and the context in which it is developed)
31(4) (as it relates to rule37(1)(d) schedule 1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983)	Replacement of counterfoils (procedure on close of poll)	Section 31 is commenced, except to the extent that it relates to sub-paragraph (d) of paragraph (1) of rule 37 of the parliamentary election rules, which remains under consideration
42-44 (as they relate to local government elections and authority elections as defined in section 203 of the Representation of the People Act 1983)	Control of documents after parliamentary election; access to election documents	Section 41 was commenced 1 January 2007. Policy changes in relation to election documents in Scotland, and secondary legislation, mean the commencement of sections 42 to 44 is, for the time being, unnecessary

Section	*Description*	*Reason why not yet in force*
59	Reporting donations to holders of certain elective offices	Commenced 1 July 2009 (so far as relates to a Member of the House of Commons): Otherwise under consideration
61(1)(2-4)(5)(6)	Regulation of loans etc.	Commenced 11 September 2006 (England, Wales, Scotland); 1 January 2007 (England, Wales, Scotland); 1 July 2008 (Northern Ireland) except so far as applies to minor parties within meaning of PPERA 2000 s160. The position of minor parties (i.e. those which do not seek to field candidates in parliamentary or local authority elections) remains under review
Schedule 1, Part 5, (75(1) amended rule 37 of the parliamentary rules set out in Schedule 1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983)	Amendments (Signing in Polling stations)	Remains under consideration in particular in the context of wider reforms to electoral registration
Political Parties and Elections Act 2009		
1(2),2,3(1),(3),(4),8, Schedules 1 and 2	Compliance with controls imposed by the 2000 Act etc; Investigatory powers of Commission; Civil Sanctions; Education about systems of government and EU institutions	The Electoral Commission's new powers will be commenced with effect from 1 July 2010. A statutory instrument supporting the civil sanctioning powers must be approved before section 3 and schedule 2 can be commenced
6	Number of Electoral Commissioners	The Speaker's Committee is considering proposed nominated Commissioners from party leaders. The provision will be commenced once the appointment process is complete
9-11 and Schedules 3 and 4	Declaration as to source of donation; Non-resident donors etc; Non-resident lenders etc.	As set out in the written ministerial statement of 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 68-70WS: "Officials have begun preliminary work on the prerequisites to implementation of these provisions. However, as stated during consideration of Lords Amendments to the Bill, we are practically unable to commence Sections 10 and 11 before the summer of 2010 due to their complex nature. Section 9, which requires donors to provide declarations as to the true origins of all donations of over £7,500, will be commenced alongside Sections 10 and 11 to ensure consistency in approach, which will be welcomed by those who make political donations, as well as parties and other recipients who will have to ensure that they comply with the additional declaration requirement."
25	Disposal of election documents in Scotland	This provision must be commenced at the same time as the consequential amending regulations which are yet to be approved by the House of Lords and made by the Minister.
27	Returning officers for elections to the European Parliament	The intention is to commence this provision in due course in time for implementation ahead of the next scheduled European Parliamentary elections in 2014

Section	*Description*	*Reason why not yet in force*
28-29	CORE keeper	The CORE project has been paused to allow policy on individual electoral registration to develop first (individual registration may change the requirements for CORE and the context in which it is developed)
30, 31, 35, 36	Electoral registration: Voluntary provision of identifying information; Regulations amending or supplementing section 30; Schemes for provision of data to registration officers; Schemes under section 35: proposals, consultation and evaluation	The timetable for the introduction of individual electoral registration remains as set out during the parliamentary passage of the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009. During Commons Consideration of Lords Amendments on 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 99, Michael Wills said: "Our approach to individual registration is to move in two phases: a voluntary phase and a compulsory phase…The voluntary phase will not commence before July 2010...and will not finish before 2014. That period will enable us to be fully confident that the system is ready before we move to the compulsory phase...It will enable us to prepare the public for the change, and to take steps to bolster registration rates in the meantime. That will be fundamental to protecting the system against the risk of a drop in the numbers registered." A project has been established to design and implement processes for the collection and storage of personal identifiers in the voluntary phase of individual electoral registration.
32(1)-(5)(7)-(11)	Report by Electoral Commission on provision of identifying information	This section can only be commenced once sections 30 and 31 have come into force
33 and 34	Obligatory provision of identifying information (and provision supplementing 33)	The commencement of this section is linked to the annual reports produced by the Electoral Commission under section 32. Upon a positive recommendation being made by the Electoral Commission in 2014 the commencement of sections 33 and 34 will need to be debated and approved by both Houses.
	Minor and consequential amendments	The commencement of relevant minor and consequential amendments is dependant on commencement of other sections of the Act and will be brought forward as appropriate
	Repeals	

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 11 March 2010

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Allowances

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report,* column 38W, on Members: allowances, how much has been spent under each budgetary heading referred to in the answer. [319926]

[Official Report, 8 March 2010, Vol. 507, c. 3-4W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Nick Harvey:

An error has been identified in the answer given to the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) on 8 March 2010. The original answer did not include bills received after the date for answer but before the answer was sent. It did not therefore fully reflect "the costs to date".

The original answer was as follows:

Nick Harvey: The costs to date, inclusive of VAT, are as follows:

	£
Sir Thomas Legg's review	
Work commissioned	870,784
Staff costs	306,534
Office supplies	5,889
Total	1,183,207
Sir Paul Kennedy's work	
Work commissioned	18,327
Travel	643
Office Supplies	180
Total	19,150

The correct answer should have been:

Nick Harvey: The costs to date, inclusive of VAT, are as follows:

	£
Sir Thomas Legg's review	
Work commissioned	870,784
Staff costs	306,534
Office supplies	5,889
	1,183,207
Sir Paul Kennedy's work	
Work commissioned	21,456
Travel	767
Office Supplies	180
	22,403

Ministerial Corrections

Friday 12 March 2010

DEFENCE

Atomic Weapons Establishment: Radioactive Waste

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in the preparation of an integrated waste strategy for the Atomic Weapons Establishment. [298095]

[Official Report, 10 November 2009, Vol. 499, c. 231W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Quentin Davies:

Some errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey) on 10 November 2009.

The full answer given was as follows:

Mr. Quentin Davies: An integrated waste strategy for the Atomic Weapons Establishment was first approved by the board of AWE plc. in March 2007 and updated in April 2008 and May 2009. The regulators (the Environment Agency and the nuclear installations inspectorate) have assessed the strategy as appropriate for use. It is being progressively implemented and is subject to annual review.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Quentin Davies: An integrated waste strategy for the Atomic Weapons Establishment was first approved by the board of AWE plc. in March 2007 and updated in March 2008 and June 2009. The regulators (the Environment Agency and the nuclear installations inspectorate) have assessed the strategy as appropriate for use. It is being progressively implemented and is subject to annual review.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

New Deal for Communities

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent by the New Deal for Communities programme since its inception; and what estimate he has made of the number of people assisted by the programme. [317910]

[Official Report, 22 February 2010, Vol. 506, c. 276W.]

Letter of correction from Ms Rosie Winterton:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy) on 22 February 2010. I have notified the MP of the error.

The error was in the 3rd line of the answer and read 797,100 when it should have been 385,815.

The full answer given was as follows.

Ms Rosie Winterton: Between 2000-01 and 2007-08 (the last year for which audited accounts are available) NDC Partnerships reported that they have spent £1,559 million in grant funding. The latest figures available estimate that there were 797,100 people living in NDC areas in 2007.

Note:

Population figures from: Sheffield Hallam University's Centre for Regional and Economic and Social Research.

The correct answer should have been:

Ms Rosie Winterton: Between 2000-01 and 2007-08 (the last year for which audited accounts are available) NDC Partnerships reported that they have spent £1,559 million in grant funding. The latest figures available estimate that there were 385,815 people living in NDC areas in 2007.

Note:

Population figures from: Sheffield Hallam University's Centre for Regional and Economic and Social Research.

Ministerial Corrections

Monday 15 March 2010

CABINET OFFICE

Married People

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many married couples *(a)* are both over the age of 65, *(b)* are both in work, *(c)* are living apart, *(d)* have no children and *(e)* have one or more children under the age of five; and if she will make a statement. [310671]

[Official Report, 18 January 2010, Vol. 504, c. 51-52W.]

Letter of correction from Angela E. Smith:

Errors have been identified in the response given to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 18 January 2010. Table 1 relating to the number of married couples is incorrect. Additionally, the figure of 5,270 married couples who live in a household where all adults are in employment is missing from the table.

The original response given was as follows:

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many married couples (a) are both over the age of 65, (b) are both in work, (c) are living apart, (d) have no children and (e) have one or more children under the age of five; and if she will make a statement. (310671)

The latest, available information requested is given in the table attached. The figures are from ONS's Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets for the period January to December 2008. Information on the number of couples living apart is not collected and is therefore not presented.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples could give different results.

Table 1 Number of married couples[1] by various characteristics, United Kingdom, January to December 2008

	Number of people (thousand)
Number of married couples	12,170
of whom	
both are over the age of 65	2,060
both are in employment	5,270
have no children	6,040
have one or more children under the age of five	1,730

[1] Excludes cohabiting and same sex couples.

Source:

APS household datasets (ONS)

The correct answer should have been:

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many married couples (a) are both over the age of 65, (b) are both in work, (c) are living apart, (d) have no children and (e) have one or more children under the age of five; and if she will make a statement. (310671)

The latest, available information requested is given in the table attached. The figures are from ONS's Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets for the period January to December 2008. Information on the number of couples living apart is not collected and is therefore not presented. As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples could give different results.

Table 1. Number of married couples[1] by various characteristics, United Kingdom, January to December 2008

	Thousands
	Previous
Number of married couples	12,170
of whom	
both are over the age of 65	2,060
both are in employment	6,220
live in a household where all adults are in employment	5,270
have no children	6,040
have one or more children under the age of five	1,730

[1] Excludes cohabiting and same sex couples

Source:

APS Household datasets

Death: Cancer

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the age-standardised mortality rate from prostate cancer was in *(a)* England, *(b)* each primary care trust area and *(c)* each constituency in each year since 1997-98; [317707]

(2) how many deaths from prostate cancer there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* each primary care trust area and *(c)* each constituency in each year since 1997-98. [317708]

[Official Report, 22 February 2010, Vol. 506, c. 159W.]

Letter of correction from Angela E. Smith:

Errors have been identified in the response given to the hon. Member for South-West Norfolk (Christopher Fraser) on 22 February 2010. Table 1, which related to breast cancer, should not have been included in the original answer, which related to prostate cancer and Table 4 was missing from the answer.

The original response given was as follows:

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking (1) what the age-standardised mortality rate from prostate cancer was in (a) England, (b) each primary care trust area and (c) each constituency in each year since 1997-98 (317707) and (2) how many deaths from prostate cancer there were in (a) England, (b) each primary care trust area and (c) each constituency in each year since 1997-98. (317708)

The tables attached provide:

(1) The age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population, where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death, for (a) England, for the years 1997 to 2008 (the latest year available) (Table 1), (b) primary care organisations in England, for the years

2001 to 2008 (the only period available) (Table 2), and (c) parliamentary constituencies in England, for the years 2001 to 2007 (the only period available) (Table 3).

(2) The number of deaths where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death, for (a) England and (b) primary care organisations in England, for the years 1997 to 2008 (the latest year available) (Tables 4 and 5), and (c) parliamentary constituencies in England, for the years 1997-02 and 2003-08 combined (the only periods available) (Table 6).

A copy of Tables 2, 3, 5 and 6 have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Mortality rates for primary care organisations and parliamentary constituencies can only be calculated for the periods given due to the availability of mid-year population estimates. Numbers of deaths for parliamentary constituencies have not been given for individual years in line with the current ONS policy on protecting confidentiality within birth and death statistics.

Table 1. Number of deaths where breast cancer was the underlying cause of death, England and Wales, 2008[1, 2, 3]

Cause of death	*Deaths (persons)*
Breast cancer	10,779

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C50.

[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

The correct answer should have been:

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking (1) what the age-standardised mortality rate from prostate cancer was in (a) England, (b) each primary care trust area and (c) each constituency in each year since 1997-98 (317707) and (2) how many deaths from prostate cancer there were in (a) England, (b) each primary care trust area and (c) each constituency in each year since 1997-98. (317708)

The tables attached provide:

(1) The age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population, where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death, for (a) England, for the years 1997 to 2008 (the latest year available) (Table 1), (b) primary care organisations in England, for the years 2001 to 2008 (the only period available) (Table 2), and (c) parliamentary constituencies in England, for the years 2001 to 2007 (the only period available) (Table 3).

(2) The number of deaths where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death, for (a) England and (b) primary care organisations in England, for the years 1997 to 2008 (the latest year available) (Tables 4 and 5), and (c) parliamentary constituencies in England, for the years 1997-02 and 2003-08 combined (the only periods available) (Table 6).

A copy of Tables 2, 3, 5 and 6 have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Mortality rates for primary care organisations and parliamentary constituencies can only be calculated for the periods given due to the availability of mid-year population estimates. Numbers of deaths for parliamentary constituencies have not been given for individual years in line with the current ONS policy on protecting confidentiality within birth and death statistics.

Table 1. Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death, England 1997 to 2008[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Year	*Deaths (males)* *Rate per 100,000 population*
1997	28
1998	28
1999	27
2000	26
2001	27
2002	27
2003	27
2004	26
2005	26
2006	25
2007	25
2008	24

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Cause of death for prostate cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 185 for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C61 from 2001 onwards. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[4] Figures for England exclude deaths of non-residents.

[5] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 4. Number of deaths where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death, England, 1997 to 2008[1, 2, 3, 4]

Year	*Males* *Deaths*
1997	7,982
1998	8,074
1999	8,015
2000	7,761
2001	8,305
2002	8,471
2003	8,570
2004	8,531
2005	8,492
2006	8,506
2007	8,659
2008	8,597

[1] Cause of death for prostate cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 185 for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C61 from 2001 onwards. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[3] Figures for England exclude deaths of non-residents.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff in the *(a)* Government Equalities Office and *(b)* Equality and Human Rights Commission have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years. [316451]

[Official Report, 2 March 2010, Vol. 506, c. 1077W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Michael Jabez Foster:

Errors have been identified in the response given to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) on 2 March 2010. The year stated as 2007 is incorrect. The correct year is 2008.

The original response given was as follows:

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office does not hold information on sickness absence from before October 2007. Since October 2008, no staff in the Government Equalities Office have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days.

Four staff in the Equality and Human Rights Commission have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years.

The correct answer should have been:

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office does not hold information on sickness absence from before October 2008. Since October 2008, no staff in the Government Equalities Office have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days.

Four staff in the Equality and Human Rights Commission have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years.